

Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services

List of follow-up actions
(Position as at 20 December 2010)

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up actions required	Administration's response
1. Development of mediation services	22 October 2009	The Department of Justice ("DoJ") to provide information on the number and percentage of employment injury compensation cases in which mediation service had been used, if available.	Response awaited.
2. Drafting of legislation	15 December 2009	The Law Drafting Division ("LDD"), DoJ, to revert to the Panel on its consideration of members' suggestion of developing guidelines on the drafting of the long titles of bills.	Response awaited.
3. Legal Aid in Criminal Cases Rules	25 January 2010	Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") to consider the Law Society of Hong Kong's ("Law Society") proposal for extending legal aid to cases where references are made by the Chief Executive to the Court of Appeal under section 83P of the Criminal Procedure Ordinance (Cap. 221) and incorporating a general provision to empower the Director of Legal Aid to grant legal aid in such circumstances as he thinks fit, and to revert to the Law Society and the Panel on its consideration of the proposal.	Response awaited.
4. Proposal to implement a verified,	26 April 2010	LDD to provide a response, as appropriate, to Ms Audrey EU's suggestion of engaging outside contractors to provide annotation service in the Bilingual Laws Information	Written response to be provided to the Panel by the end of 2010.

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authenticated and searchable electronic database of Hong Kong legislation		System.	
5. Five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants	24 May 2010	<p>The Legal Aid Services Council ("LASC") to revert to the Panel on -</p> <p>(a) the outcome of the study by its Interest Group on Scope of Legal Aid on expansion of the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme ("SLAS"), including the feasibility of setting up a Second-tier SLAS to further improve legal aid service, in about six months' time; and</p> <p>(b) its recommendations on how assistance could be provided to employees in obtaining legal aid in employer insolvency cases and in recovery of wages.</p>	<p>The report on the study conducted by the Interest Group and the recommendations of LASC on expansion of the scope of SLAS were issued to members vide LC Paper Nos. CB(2)570/10-11 (02) and (01) respectively.</p> <p>Response awaited.</p>
6. Trial in the District Court	28 June 2010	DoJ to discuss with the two legal professional bodies on the viability of giving defendants the right to elect a jury trial and report to the Panel on the progress of the discussion in due course.	DoJ will revert to the Panel in the second quarter of 2011.

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7. Five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants	21 July 2010	HAB to consult the relevant parties, including DoJ, the Judiciary, the Labour and Welfare Bureau and the Legal Aid Department ("LAD"), on the views and suggestions raised by the Chairman and Members regarding measures to assist employees in wage claims and revert to the Panel in due course.	Response awaited.
8. Proposed creation of a new rank of Assistant Principal Government Counsel ("APGC") (Directorate (Legal) 1) and creation of posts in the Department of Justice	22 November 2010	DoJ to - (a) provide a breakdown on the cost of the staffing proposal; (b) provide information on its workload statistics in the past years; and (c) explain in its paper to be submitted to the Establishment Subcommittee the need to create one APGC post in the Legal Policy Division to handle appeals by torture claimants following its earlier funding request for the creation of another Directorate post to deal with workload arising from torture claims.	Response awaited
9. Progress of review of SLAS	22 November 2010	The Judiciary Administration ("JA") to provide the following information in the past three years (a) the respective number and percentage of civil and	JA's response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)571/10-11(01) on 14 December 2010.

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		<p>criminal cases involving unrepresented litigants; and</p> <p>(b) the number of cases of appeal against Labour Tribunal awards involving unrepresented litigants.</p> <p>LAD to provide information on the number of cases where applicants for legal aid had turned down the grant of legal aid due to the amount contributions required to be paid and the amount of contributions involved in such cases.</p> <p>HAB to revert to the Panel on -</p> <p>(a) its consideration on the various issues relating to contribution by aided persons raised by members; and</p> <p>(b) the concrete legislative timetables for the legislative proposals relating to the financial eligibility limits for legal aid, the criminal legal aid fee system and expansion of the scope of SLAS.</p>	<p>Response awaited.</p> <p>Response awaited.</p> <p>HAB's responses were issued to members vide LC Paper Nos. CB(2)591/10-11 (04) and 638/10-11(01) on 20 December 2010.</p>