

# 立法會 *Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CB(4)794/12-13(04)

Ref : CB4/PL/AJLS

## **Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services**

**Updated background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat  
for the meeting on 25 June 2013**

### **The establishment of an independent legal aid authority**

#### **Purpose**

This paper summarizes Members' views and concerns on the establishment of an independent legal aid authority.

#### **Background**

2. The Legal Aid Ordinance (Cap. 91), 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 and the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme. Legal aid will be granted to applicants who satisfy the means test and the merits test.

3. The Legal Aid Services Council (LASC) was established on 1 September 1996 under the Legal Aid Services Council Ordinance (Cap. 489) ("the Ordinance") to oversee the administration of legal aid services provided by LAD and to advise the Chief Executive (CE) on legal aid policy. While LAD is accountable to LASC for the provision of legal aid services, LASC does not have the power to direct LAD on staff matters and the handling of individual cases.

#### **Discussions at the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services**

Consultancy study commissioned by Legal Aid Services Council on the establishment of an independent legal aid authority in 1998

4. There have been long standing calls from some Members and the two

legal professional bodies for the setting up of an independent legal aid body to administer legal aid in place of LAD. Under section 4(5)(b) of the Ordinance, LASC is tasked to advise CE on, inter alia, the feasibility and desirability of the establishment of an independent legal aid authority. In October 1997, LASC commissioned a consultancy study to assess the desirability, practicability and cost-effectiveness of setting up an independent legal aid authority with reference to the practices in other common law jurisdictions. The study was completed in April 1998 and LASC submitted its recommendations to CE in September 1998. LASC recommended, inter alia, that –

- (a) an independent statutory legal aid authority be established to advise the Government on legal aid policies and ultimately to be accountable for the delivery of all legal aid services in Hong Kong;
- (b) the authority would eventually employ its own staff, but initially these would be civil servants seconded from LAD for one year for senior directorate officers, or two years for the rest of the staff; and
- (c) the authority should be financed by public revenue and the current funding arrangement with no ceiling on expenditure on legal aid services should continue.

5. At the meeting of the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services ("the Panel") on 15 September 1998, LASC briefed members on its recommendations of setting up an independent legal aid authority. Members noted LASC's view that it was an institutionally flawed arrangement for legal aid to be administered by civil servants, as there was a risk of pressure from the Government and a perception of lack of independence. LASC also considered that its limited powers, its reliance on LAD for information and analysis, and its exclusion from involvement in reviewing individual cases had constrained its effectiveness in safeguarding LAD's independence. LASC therefore came to the view that there were sufficient concerns over the independence issue to justify the establishment of an independent legal aid authority. Members also noted that the two legal professional bodies were in support of the establishment of an independent legal aid authority to enhance public confidence in the administration of justice.

#### Administration's response to the recommendations made by Legal Aid Services Council

6. At the Panel meetings on 13 October 1999 and 18 January 2000, members followed up the issue on the setting up of an independent legal aid authority. Some members deplored the Administration's decision not to accept LASC's recommendation to establish an independent legal aid authority.

These members pointed out that the reasons adduced by the Administration, such as resource implications and the possible impact on staff morale in LAD, should not be the prime considerations. The issue of overriding importance was to ensure the provision of legal aid services by an independent body free from any perception of conflict of interest and undue influence from the Government, particularly in face of the increasing number of public law litigations brought against the Government.

7. The Administration advised that there were safeguards in the current system to protect the independence of legal aid administration. Such safeguards included a statutory requirement for the Director of Legal Aid (DLA) to consider all applications according to established criteria and a mechanism whereby an appeal against LAD's decision not to grant legal aid rested with the Registrar of the High Court. In complicated cases against the Government in public law litigation, LAD would as a matter of practice seek independent legal advice outside the Government which would be given sufficient weight in reaching its decision. Moreover, all public law litigation, including judicial reviews against the Government or Government related bodies, and criminal work were assigned to lawyers in private practice. As regards the monitoring role of LASC in respect of LAD's decisions on legal aid applications, the Administration advised that LASC did not have the statutory power to direct LAD on the handling of individual cases. However, LAD had to provide such information as was reasonably requested by LASC for the purpose of fulfilling its functions under the Ordinance, e.g. reports on cases of great public concern.

8. The Administration stressed that while there was some concern about the independence of legal aid administration from the Government, the focus of the concern was on the handling of a minority of sensitive cases that presented a particular challenge to the Government. However, funding of numerous legal aid cases against the Government both before and after the reunification bore evidence to the fact that legal aid was administered independently in Hong Kong. The Administration considered that the genuine concern of the public was over the quality of legal aid services.

9. On LASC's recommendation that the proposed independent legal aid authority should be financed by public revenue with no ceiling on legal aid expenditure, the Administration advised that it was against the Government's long established public finance management principle to provide an infinite budget for a body that was independent from the Government, which would create problems such as accountability as to the means to ensure effective use of resources. The Administration considered that the establishment of an independent legal aid authority without a ceiling on legal aid expenditure was not in the best interest of users of legal aid services. According to the experience of a number of overseas jurisdictions (Australia, Canada, New

Zealand and the United Kingdom (UK)) where an independent legal aid authority was in place, there was invariably pressure to contain costs through capping the funds provided for legal aid and narrowing the scope of service. The Administration also cautioned about the unsettling effect of a disestablishment exercise on staff morale. According to the Administration, staff of LAD generally expressed a fairly opposite view to the proposal to set up a new and independent legal aid authority when being consulted.

#### Transfer of the legal aid portfolio to the Home Affairs Bureau

10. At the Panel meeting on 28 May 2007, members discussed the transfer of the legal aid portfolio from the Administration Wing of the Chief Secretary for Administration's Office (Administration Wing) to the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB). Some members expressed concern that the proposed transfer of the legal aid portfolio to a policy bureau would downgrade its status and undermine the independence of legal aid administration. These members pointed out that there was potential conflict of interest as some decisions made pursuant to the statutory powers of the Secretary for Home Affairs and the Director of Home Affairs were amenable to judicial review.

11. The Administration explained that as legal aid was a complex stand-alone policy subject that involved the provision of services to the community, it was considered appropriate for the subject to be placed under the purview of HAB. The proposal would not affect the day-to-day operation of LAD or the established independence in the delivery of legal aid services. There were safeguards to ensure that DLA would continue to exercise the statutory functions vested in him in an impartial, transparent and accountable manner.

12. In June 2007, LASC advised the Panel that while the majority of its members did not have strong views on the transfer of the legal aid portfolio to HAB, it would step up its supervisory role to ensure that the provision of legal aid services was undertaken professionally and objectively without interference. LASC also advised that although its recommendation of setting up an independent statutory legal aid authority in 1998 was not accepted by the Administration, it considered it appropriate to revisit the issue.

13. Following the Panel's request, the Research and Library Services Division of the LegCo Secretariat issued a research report in June 2009 on the legal aid systems in England and Wales of the UK, the Province of Ontario of Canada and the State of New South Wales of Australia (RP01/08-09). A comparison table setting out the authority responsible for providing legal aid in Hong Kong and the selected places as extracted from the research report is in **Appendix I**.

Review conducted by Legal Aid Services Council on the setting up of an independent legal aid authority and the way forward

14. In October 2009, LASC completed its review of the need for an independent legal aid authority and reported its findings to the Administration. LASC acknowledged that the institutional arrangement of LAD being a government department might create a perception of lack of independence and it would be ideal to establish a separate entity to administer legal aid to address the perception problem. However, LASC did not see a pressing need to disestablish LAD and substitute it by an independent legal aid authority, in view of the very satisfactory service currently provided by LAD, the views of the LAD staff on the matter and the present financial position of the Government. Nevertheless, LASC proposed to conduct a consultancy study on the independence issue again in late 2011/early 2012.

15. At the Panel meeting on 25 January 2010, members discussed the findings of LASC's review and the Administration's response. Members noted the Administration's view that legal aid services should continue to be operated in the present manner and under the existing institutional setup. The deputations attending the meeting, i.e. the two legal professional bodies and the Society for Community Organization, however reiterated their long-standing call for the establishment of an independent legal aid authority.

16. Some members expressed grave dissatisfaction that the independence of legal aid was retrogressing, as evidenced by the transfer of the legal aid portfolio from the Administration Wing to HAB in 2007 and the significant departure of the findings of LASC's review in 2008 from those in its 1998 study. These members did not subscribe to LASC's view that it was only ideal for a separate entity to administer legal aid independently, pointing out that in many overseas jurisdictions, the authority responsible for delivering legal aid services was independent from the Government. They queried the basis for LASC's view that the service of LAD was very satisfactory, and pointed out that as both DLA and members of LASC were appointed by CE, there was a risk that legal aid matters would be subject to the interference of the Executive authorities. These members also stressed that it was essential that legal aid services must not only be delivered independently but also seen to be so, and reiterated their support for the establishment of an independent legal aid authority. However, some other members were of the view that it was neither necessary nor urgent to establish an independent legal aid authority, as LAD had been operating well and an appeal mechanism was in place to ensure that the powers of DLA were not abused. These members considered it more important to improve access to legal aid service by raising the financial eligibility limits and expanding the scope of cases covered by legal aid.

17. At the Panel meeting on 29 March 2010, the Chairman of LASC briefed members on the work undertaken by LASC on its review on independence of legal aid. Members noted that LASC had decided to seek funds from the Administration to conduct a fresh study of the issue in late 2011/early 2012. Panel members urged LASC to advance the schedule for conducting the study. Members were also of the view that the study should be conducted comprehensively, and the views of all relevant stakeholders, including users of legal aid services and persons whose legal aid applications had been refused, should be gauged in the process.

### **Council meetings**

18. At the Council meeting of 21 July 1993, Hon Simon YIP moved a motion urging the Government to set up an independent statutory authority for the administration of legal aid. The motion was carried.

19. When Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG moved a motion on "Relaxing the eligibility criteria for legal aid" for debate at the Council meeting of 11 February 2009, Hon Albert HO moved an amendment to the motion proposing the establishment of an independent body for assessing and approving applications for legal aid. The motion to amend moved by Hon Albert HO was negatived.

20. At the Council meeting of 27 February 2013, Hon Dennis KWOK raised a question on the establishment of an independent legal aid authority. He urged LASC to make public the consultancy study report on the feasibility and desirability of establishing an independent legal aid authority and to provide a timetable for implementing the recommendations made in the report. According to the Administration, LASC had received the draft report on the consultancy study and given comments to the consultant. LASC would submit the report to CE in the first half of 2013 and discuss with the Government on the implementation plan as soon as it had given due consideration to the report.

### **Recent development**

21. On 30 April 2013, LASC submitted to CE its recommendations on the feasibility and desirability of the establishment of an independent legal aid authority in Hong Kong together with the report of a consultancy study on the issue. While LASC agrees with the consultant that there is no immediate need to establish an independent legal aid authority, it has recommended a host of measures to enhance its function to oversee the delivery of quality legal aid services to strengthen the governance and operational transparency of LAD.

### **Latest position**

22. The Panel will hold its regular meeting on 25 June 2013 to receive views from relevant organizations, including LASC, on the establishment of an independent legal aid authority.

### **Relevant papers**

23. A list of the relevant papers which are available on the LegCo website (<http://www.legco.gov.hk>) is in **Appendix II**.

Council Business Division 4  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
20 June 2013

## Appendix I

Comparison table of major features of the legal aid systems in the three selected places and Hong Kong

	Hong Kong	England and Wales	Ontario of Canada	New South Wales of Australia
<b>Authority responsible for legal aid</b>	The Legal Aid Department (LAD) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.	The Legal Services Commission (LSC).	Legal Aid Ontario (LAO).	The Legal Aid Commission of New South Wales (LAC).
<b>Status</b>	LAD is a government department.	LSC is a non-departmental public body established under the <i>Access to Justice Act 1999</i> , which is not a servant or agent of the Crown, and does not enjoy any status, immunity or privilege of the Crown.	LAO is a statutory corporation established under the <i>Legal Aid Services Act 1998</i> , which is not an agent of Her Majesty nor a Crown agent. It is independent from, but accountable to, the Ontario government.	LAC is a statutory body established under the <i>Legal Aid Commission Act 1979</i> .
<b>Appointment of members to the governing board of legal aid authorities</b>	Not applicable.	LSC comprises not fewer than seven members and not more than 12 members appointed by the Lord Chancellor, who is the responsible Minister for LSC.	LAO is governed and managed by a board of directors appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on recommendation from the Attorney General of the Ontario government (the responsible Minister for LAO) or the Law Society.	LAC is governed and managed by a board, the members of which are appointed by the NSW Attorney General, who is the responsible Minister for LAC.



**Comparison table of major features of the legal aid systems in the three selected places and Hong Kong**

	<b>Hong Kong</b>	<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>Ontario of Canada</b>	<b>New South Wales of Australia</b>
<b>Requirements for membership on the governing board of legal aid authorities</b>	Not applicable. The departmental staff are all civic servants.	LSC's members must have experience in or knowledge of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the provision of legal aid services under LSC's Community Legal Service (CLS) and Criminal Defence Service (CDS);</li> <li>(b) the work of the courts;</li> <li>(c) consumer affairs;</li> <li>(d) social conditions; and</li> <li>(e) management.</li> </ul>	The directors of LAO's board must have certain knowledge, skills and experience in the areas that the Attorney General considers appropriate, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) business, management and financial matters of public or private sector organizations;</li> <li>(b) law and the operation of courts and tribunals;</li> <li>(c) special legal needs and provision of legal services to low-income individuals and disadvantaged communities;</li> <li>(d) operation of community legal clinics; and</li> <li>(e) social and economic circumstances associated with the special legal needs of low-income individuals and disadvantaged communities.</li> </ul> <p>The Attorney General is also required to ensure that the majority of the board members must be persons who are not lawyers and no more than three of the appointed members are members representing the Law Society in Ontario.</p>	LAC's board members must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) lawyers representing the law associations in NSW;</li> <li>(b) representatives of community legal services; and</li> <li>(c) representatives of workers, consumers and community welfare interests.</li> </ul>

**Comparison table of major features of the legal aid systems in the three selected places and Hong Kong**

	<b>Hong Kong</b>	<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>Ontario of Canada</b>	<b>New South Wales of Australia</b>
<b>Budget control by the executive</b>	LAD's annual budget is determined by the Government.	LSC's budget is part of the departmental budget of the Ministry of Justice and must be approved by the Lord Chancellor.	LAO's annual budget is part of the budget of the Ministry of the Attorney General and must be approved by the Attorney General. It must also be reviewed by the Management Board of the Cabinet of the Ontario government.	LAC is responsible for preparing its annual budget, and is not statutorily subject to the executive branch's approval.
<b>Framework for operation/guidance from the executive</b>	LAD operates based upon the Government's set policies.	LSC's operation, use of financial resources and relationship with its sponsoring government department (currently the Ministry of Justice) is specified in the Legal Services Commission Framework Document formulated by the government in consultation with LSC.  The Lord Chancellor may also give guidance to LSC about the discharge of its functions, and LSC must take into account any such guidance. However, such guidance cannot touch on individual cases.	LAO and the Ministry of the Attorney General must enter into a memorandum of understanding under which LAO is accountable to the Attorney General for its expenditure of public funds and provision of legal aid services.  The Attorney General may apply for a court order to appoint an Administrator to administer LAO if LAO's board of directors fails to discharge its duties.	LAC's operation is not bound by any framework document involving the executive or guidance from the executive, except that it may enter into an agreement with the federal government for the provision of legal aid relating to Commonwealth matters in NSW.

**Comparison table of major features of the legal aid systems in the three selected places and Hong Kong**

	<b>Hong Kong</b>	<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>Ontario of Canada</b>	<b>New South Wales of Australia</b>
<b>Accountability to the executive and the legislature</b>	The Home Affairs Bureau is responsible for setting legal aid policies for LAD to implement, while the provision of legal aid services by LAD is supervised by the Legal Aid Services Council, which is an advisory body established under the Legal Aid Services Council Ordinance. The work of LAD is also monitored by the Legislative Council.	LSC's annual plans must be approved by the Lord Chancellor. LSC must also submit its annual report to the Lord Chancellor, who causes the report to be laid before Parliament and is accountable to Parliament for LSC's activities and performance.	LAO is required to submit an annual report to the Attorney General, who must submit it to the Lieutenant Governor in Council and table it before the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.	LAC reports to the Attorney General and submits an annual report on its work and activities to the Attorney General, who must lay it before the NSW Parliament.
<b>Whether legal aid services include legal advice</b>	Legal aid services do not include legal advice.	LSC's legal aid services include legal advice, which requires a means test.	LAO's legal aid services include legal advice, which requires a means test.	LAC's legal aid services include legal advice, which does not require a means test.
<b>Whether legal aid services include mediation services</b>	Legal aid services do not include mediation services.	LSC's legal aid services include mediation services, which require a means test.	LAO's legal aid services include mediation services, which require a means test.	LAC's legal aid services include mediation services, which require a means test.

## Independent statutory legal aid authority

## Relevant documents

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Paper/Question</u>
Legislative Council	21 July 1993	Motion moved by Hon Simon YIP urging the Government to set up an independent statutory authority to be responsible for the administration of Legal Aid <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr92-93/english/lc_sitg/hansard/h930721.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr92-93/english/lc_sitg/hansard/h930721.pdf</a>
Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services	15 September 1998	Report on the Feasibility and Desirability of the Establishment of an Independent Legal Aid Authority prepared by the Legal Aid Services Council [LC Paper No. CB(2)268/98-99] <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0915cb2-268-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0915cb2-268-e.pdf</a>
		Summary of the Consultant's Report provided by the Legal Aid Services Council [LC Paper No. CB(2)207/98-99(01)] <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ajls/papers/p207e01.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ajls/papers/p207e01.pdf</a>
		Submission from the Hong Kong Bar Association [LC Paper No. CB(2)229/98-99(01)] <i>(English version only)</i> <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr99-00/english/panels/ajls/papers/229e01.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr99-00/english/panels/ajls/papers/229e01.pdf</a>
		Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)428/98-99] <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ajls/minutes/aj150998.htm">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/english/panels/ajls/minutes/aj150998.htm</a>
	13 October 1999	Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)648/99-00] <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr99-00/english/panels/ajls/minutes/aj131099.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr99-00/english/panels/ajls/minutes/aj131099.pdf</a>

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Paper/Question</u>
	18 January 2000	<p>Papers provided by the Administration on "Legal Aid Services Council's recommendation to establish an independent legal aid authority" [LC Paper Nos. CB(2)379/99-00(07) and CB(2)848/99-00(05)] <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr99-00/english/panels/ajls/papers/b379e07.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr99-00/english/panels/ajls/papers/b379e07.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr99-00/english/panels/ajls/papers/b848e05.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr99-00/english/panels/ajls/papers/b848e05.pdf</a></p> <p>Submission from the Hong Kong Bar Association [LC Paper No. CB(2)229/98-99(01)] <i>(English version only)</i> <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr99-00/english/panels/ajls/papers/229e01.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr99-00/english/panels/ajls/papers/229e01.pdf</a></p> <p>Letter dated 6 January 2000 from the Law Society of Hong Kong [LC Paper No. CB(2)848/99-00(04)] <i>(English version only)</i> <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr99-00/english/panels/ajls/papers/848e04.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr99-00/english/panels/ajls/papers/848e04.pdf</a></p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)1419/99-00] <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr99-00/english/panels/ajls/minutes/aj180100.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr99-00/english/panels/ajls/minutes/aj180100.pdf</a></p>
	28 May 2007	<p>Administration's paper on "Re-organisation of the Government Secretariat : Proposed transfer of the legal aid portfolio to the Home Affairs Bureau" [LC Paper No. CB(2)1968/06-07(04)] <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0528cb2-1968-4-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0528cb2-1968-4-e.pdf</a></p> <p>Supplementary information provided by the Administration [LC Paper No. CB(2)1968/06-07(05)] <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0528cb2-1968-5-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0528cb2-1968-5-e.pdf</a></p> <p>Minutes of meeting</p>

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Paper/Question</u>
		<p>[LC Paper No. CB(2)2540/06-07]  <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/ajls/minutes/aj070528.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/ajls/minutes/aj070528.pdf</a></p> <p><u>Follow-up papers</u></p> <p>Legal Aid Services Council's letter dated 4 June 2007 on "Proposed transfer of legal aid portfolio to the Home Affairs Bureau"            [LC Paper No. CB(2)2058/06-07(02)]  <i>(English version only)</i>  <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0625cb2-2058-2-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0625cb2-2058-2-e.pdf</a></p> <p>Administration's paper on "Re-organisation of the Government Secretariat : Proposed transfer of legal aid portfolio to the Home Affairs Bureau"            [LC Paper No. CB(2)2117/06-07(01)]  <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0625cb2-2117-1-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0625cb2-2117-1-e.pdf</a></p>
Legislative Council	11 February 2009	<p>Motion moved by Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG on "Relaxing the eligibility criteria for legal aid"  <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0211-translate-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0211-translate-e.pdf</a></p>
Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services	22 June 2009	<p>Research report on "Legal aid systems in selected places"  <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/sec/library/0809rp01-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/sec/library/0809rp01-e.pdf</a></p>
Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services	--	<p>Letter dated 16 October 2009 from the Chairman of the Legal Aid Services Council to the Chief Executive on independence of legal aid            [Appendix to LC Paper No. CB(2)357/09-10(03)]  <i>(English version only)</i>  <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0125cb2-357-3-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0125cb2-357-3-e.pdf</a></p>

Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services	25 January 2010	<p>Administration's paper on "Research report on Legal aid systems in selected places", setting out its response to the research report and major concerns raised by relevant organizations on the research report [LC Paper No. CB(2)782/09-10(04)] <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0125cb2-782-4-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0125cb2-782-4-e.pdf</a></p> <p>Administration's paper on "Independent statutory legal aid authority" [LC Paper No. CB(2)782/09-10(05)] <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0125cb2-782-5-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0125cb2-782-5-e.pdf</a></p> <p>Background brief on "Independent statutory legal aid authority" [LC Paper No. CB(2)782/09-10(06)] <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0125cb2-782-6-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0125cb2-782-6-e.pdf</a></p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)1096/09-10] <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/minutes/aj20100125.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/minutes/aj20100125.pdf</a></p>
Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services	29 March 2010	<p>Letter dated 19 March 2010 from the Chairman of Legal Aid Services Council to the Panel Chairman in response to the requests made by the Panel at the meeting on 25 January 2010 [LC Paper No. CB(2)1156/09-10(04)] <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0329cb2-1156-4-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0329cb2-1156-4-e.pdf</a></p> <p>Updated background brief on "Independent statutory legal aid authority" [LC Paper No. CB(2)1156/09-10(05)] <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0329cb2-1156-5-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0329cb2-1156-5-e.pdf</a></p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)1581/09-10] <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/minutes/aj20100329.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/minutes/aj20100329.pdf</a></p>

Council Meeting	27 February 2013	Hon Dennis KWOK raised a question on "the establishment of an independent legal aid authority" <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/counmtg/agenda/cm20130227.htm#q_7">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/counmtg/agenda/cm20130227.htm#q_7</a>  [Press release] <a href="http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201302/27/P201302270462.htm">http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201302/27/P201302270462.htm</a>
-----------------	------------------	---

Council Business Division 4  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
20 June 2013