

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(4)658/14-15(04)

Ref : CB4/PL/AJLS

Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 23 March 2015**

**Provision of legal aid and assignment of lawyers to legally aided
persons by the Legal Aid Department**

Purpose

This paper gives an account of the deliberations of the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services ("the Panel") on issues relating to the provision of legal aid and assignment of lawyers to legally aided persons by the Legal Aid Department ("LAD").

Government's legal aid policy

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.

Legal aid framework

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 LAD under the Ordinary Legal Aid Scheme ("OLAS") and the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme ("SLAS").

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.

6. LAD provides legal representation to eligible applicants by a solicitor and, if necessary, a barrister in civil and criminal proceedings. Legal aid is available, inter alia, to cases in District Court, the Court of First Instance, the Court of Appeal and the Court of Final Appeal. It is also available for committal proceedings in the Magistrates' Courts. Any person, whether or not resident in Hong Kong, who is involved in these court proceedings may apply for legal aid.

7. To successfully apply for legal aid, an applicant must pass the means test and the merits test. An applicant would not be eligible for legal aid if his financial resources¹ exceed the financial eligibility limit ("FEL")². To satisfy the merits test, an applicant needs to show that he has reasonable grounds for taking or defending proceedings. Section 9(d) of LAO empowers the Director of Legal Aid ("DLA") to refer an application for legal aid to a counsel or a solicitor to give opinion on the case to assess its eligibility for legal aid.

OLAS

8. OLAS covers civil proceedings in District Court and above. The types of cases include matrimonial cases, traffic accident claims, landlord and tenant disputes, claims in respect of industrial accidents, employees' compensation, immigration matters, breach of contract, professional negligence, seamen's wage claims, employees' wages and severance pay, Mental Health Review Tribunal cases, and Coronors' inquests involving interests of public justice. The scope of

1 "Financial resources" means the aggregate of an applicant's disposable income within a 12-month period and disposable capital. A person's disposable income is his gross income minus deductible items as allowed under LAO. A person's disposable capital is the sum of his credit balance, money due to him, the market value of non-money resources and the value of business or share in a company, minus deductible items as allowed under the LAO.

2 FELs of OLAS and SLAS were increased substantially (i.e. from \$175,800 to \$260,000 for OLAS, and from \$488,400 to \$1,300,000 for SLAS) in May 2011. In June 2013, the FELs were further increased to \$269,620 and \$1,348,100 respectively to take into account changes in the Consumer Price Index (C).

OLAS was expanded in November 2012 to cover monetary claims in derivatives of securities, currency futures or other futures contracts when fraud, misrepresentation or deception was involved in respect of the sale.

9. To satisfy the means test for legal aid for civil proceedings under OLAS, an applicant's financial resources must not exceed \$269,620. 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. DLA may waive the limit in meritorious cases involving a possible breach of HKBORO or an inconsistency with ICCPR.

10. To satisfy the means test for legal aid in criminal cases, an applicant's financial resources should not exceed \$269,620. If an applicant was charged with murder, treason or piracy with violence, he 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 \$269,620 if he is satisfied that it is desirable in the interests of justice to do so subject to payment of a contribution, if required.

11. The maximum contribution rate payable under OLAS is 25% of the financial resources possessed by an aided person, with the maximum amount of contribution capped at \$67,405.

SLAS

12. 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. In November 2012, the scope of SLAS was significantly expanded to cover a wider range of professional negligence claims, negligence claims against insurers or their intermediaries in respect of the taking out of personal insurance products, monetary claims against the vendors in the sale of completed or uncompleted first-hand residential properties, and representation for employees in appeals against awards made by the Labour Tribunal. According to the Administration, all along, the guiding principles governing the scope of proceedings covered by SLAS should be those: (a) which deserve priority for public funding in the sense that significant injury or injustice to the individual, as distinct from that to a commercial concern or a group of citizens, is involved; and (b) which involve monetary claims and have a reasonably good chance of success.

13. The scheme is available to those whose financial resources exceed \$269,620 but do not exceed \$1,348,100. The costs of the scheme are met from the Supplementary Legal Aid Fund, which is financed by the application fees payable by applicants, the interim contributions from aided persons and the final contributions from a percentage deduction of the damages recovered in successful cases. The contribution rates were reduced twice, in 2000 and 2006, to the present 6% for cases settled before delivery of brief to counsel and 10% for other cases.

Assignment of lawyers to legally aided persons by LAD

Legislative framework on assignment of legal aid cases

14. Section 13 of LAO provides that where a legal aid certificate is granted, DLA may act for the aided person through legal aid counsel or assign any lawyers in private practice who are on the Legal Aid Panel selected by either the aided person if he so desires, or DLA.

15. In brief, section 13 of LAO stipulates that when a legal aid certificate is granted, DLA has the choice whether to act as solicitor and for the aided person to be represented by a legal aid counsel or to assign the case to a solicitor on the Legal Aid Panel. If DLA decides not to act, he may assign a solicitor on the Legal Aid Panel selected by the aided person or DLA may assign a solicitor on the Legal Aid Panel if the aided person makes no selection.

16. To avoid conflict of interests and to maintain the independence of LAD, all judicial review cases are assigned out. In addition, cases are assigned out if the aided person was already represented by a private practitioner before the grant of legal aid. DLA will not act where both parties are legally aided unless a party to the proceedings is already represented by LAD at the time when legal aid is granted to the other party and there is no conflict of interest or prejudice to the aided person already represented by DLA if LAD continues to act.

Policy and criteria on assignment of private lawyers

17. Cases that LAD cannot or choose not to take up are assigned out to lawyers on the Legal Aid Panel. When distributing legal aid work to lawyers on the Legal Aid Panel, irrespective of the types of cases involved, LAD will adhere to the fundamental principle that the aided person's interest is of paramount importance. LAD's primary duty towards the aided person is to facilitate access to and attainment of justice through competent legal representation. To this end, LAD has devised and published criteria on assignment of legal aid cases based on

the experience and expertise of the lawyers. The criteria, which have been endorsed by the LASC and are available at LAD's website and contained in the Manual for Legal Aid Practitioners, seek to ensure that DLA fulfils his duty of assigning competent lawyers to act for aided persons. The criteria include features such as imposition of a limit on the number of assignments and amount of fees paid that aim to facilitate an equitable distribution of legal aid work. A copy of the assignment criteria is in **Appendix I**.

Nomination of lawyers by legally aided persons

18. When aided persons decide to nominate their own lawyers, LAD takes the view that the effect of Section 13 of LAO is such that the aided person's nominations should be given due weight and should not be rejected unless there are compelling reasons to do so. Compelling reasons are when the nomination is likely to undermine the aided person's interest in the proceedings and/or to jeopardize the legal aid fund on account of matters such as previous unsatisfactory performance, adverse disciplinary action by regulatory bodies of the two branches of the profession, language requirements of the proceedings, or the aided person has made repeated/late requests for change of lawyer without any good reasons in support and where the hearing date is imminent.

19. In the absence of any compelling reasons as those mentioned above, LAD is of the view that it does not have any valid ground under the existing legal framework to decline or question the nomination of the aided person. By the same token, unless there is evidence to the contrary, it is improper for the Department and would be a slur on the character and professional integrity of the nominated lawyer for LAD to enquire if the nomination is prompted by some kind of questionable conduct on the part of the lawyer concerned.

20. In judicial review cases, any such enquiry may also be interpreted as an unnecessary and improper attempt to influence the outcome of legally aided proceedings when the lawyer nominated by the aided person is professionally qualified and has an untarnished professional record. It could also be construed as interference with the aided person's right of access to justice. The practice of acceding to the aided person's nomination in the absence of compelling reasons also serves to give recognition to the fiduciary nature of the relationship between a litigant and his legal representative which is a relationship that reposes total trust and confidence essential in the conduct of legal proceedings and which contributes to the smooth operation of the justice system and protects the interest of aided persons.

Relevant Panel discussions

Expansion of the scope of SLAS

21. In response to members' long standing calls for expansion of the scope of SLAS, the Administration proposed at the meeting held on 28 March 2011 that the scope of SLAS would be expanded to cover professional negligence claims, negligence claims against insurers or their intermediaries in respect of the taking out of personal insurance products, monetary claims against the vendors in the sale of completed or uncompleted first-hand residential properties, and representation for employees in appeals against awards made by the Labour Tribunal.

22. Whilst welcoming the Administration's proposal to expand the scope of SLAS, a member expressed disagreement with the Administration's decision of not including claims arising from the sale of goods and provision of services under SLAS on the grounds of low success rate and high cost-to-damage ratio of these claims. The Administration explained that having considered that claims arising from the sale of goods and provision of services generally involved small amounts of money and the litigation costs involved usually far exceeded the value of the damages, and that such claims had a relatively low success rate, the Administration did not seek to expand SLAS to cover such claims.

23. In response to the concern of some members that claims against property developers by minority owners in respect of compulsory sales of building units would not be covered under SLAS, the Administration stressed that the self-financing principle of SLAS should be adhered to in considering the issue. Given that no monetary value was involved in compulsory sale cases and past results of the Lands Tribunal had shown that the chance of granting a compulsory sale order was very high, the Administration envisaged that the chance of the aided minority owner losing the case and having to bear all the costs was very high.

24. Regarding money claims in derivatives of securities, currency futures or other futures contracts, members noted that whilst the Administration would not seek to expand SLAS to cover derivative claims in the coming exercise, it would conduct a study on amending LAO with a view to enabling money claims in derivatives of securities, currency futures or other futures contracts be covered under OLAS when fraud, misrepresentation/deception was involved at the time of purchase.

Granting of legal aid for judicial review cases

25. A member considered that to enable access to justice in cases of public interest, LAD should waive the FELs of OLAS and SLAS for applicants seeking judicial review. The Administration advised that DLA had the discretion to waive the OLAS FEL for applicants in meritorious cases in which a breach of HKBORO or an inconsistency with ICCPR as applied to Hong Kong was an issue.

26. At the meeting on 30 January 2012, a member asked whether LAD would require an applicant to self-fund an initial application for judicial review whilst DLA would only grant legal aid if the court granted leave. The Administration advised that leave to apply for judicial review was not a pre-condition for the grant of legal aid. All cases including judicial review cases were subject to a means test independently conducted by LAD. Independent counsel's opinion would also be obtained where appropriate before a decision on granting of legal aid was made. An applicant who was refused legal aid might appeal against the DLA's decision to the Registrar of the High Court.

Possible abuse of legal aid services

27. Some members expressed concern that in some personal injuries cases where the same solicitors firm was nominated in many cases by the aided persons, the involvement of claims recovery agent might be suspected. In this connection, LAD should, in consultation with LASC, take more proactive actions to safeguard against any possible abuse of the legal aid system. Suggestion was made that the present nomination arrangement should be reviewed so that an applicant would be required, before the granting of legal aid, to sign a declaration that his choice of lawyer had not been influenced by touting or any other improper conduct on the part of the lawyer concerned. The Administration assured members that if LAD had come across any suspicious activities in the nomination process or in the course of the proceedings, LAD would look into the issue and refer them to the relevant legal professional bodies for follow-up.

28. Some members enquired whether there was any impropriety if a lawyer persuaded a person to apply for legal aid for judicial review and nominate the lawyer to act for him. The Administration advised that unless the lawyer nominated had provided misleading information to the aided person affecting his choice of lawyer in his application for legal aid, the Administration saw no impropriety for the lawyer to advise the aided person to seek judicial review in respect of his case.

29. A member expressed concern that certain applicants had applied for legal aid on multiple occasions, and that a selected group of legal professionals had often been nominated to handle the cases. Query was raised as to whether there was any mechanism in place to ensure that legal aid would not be abused by applicants. At the meeting on 16 February 2015, the Administration advised that there were multiple mechanisms and safeguards to ensure the independent and fair handling of legal aid cases. In particular, LAD had to assess legal aid applications in accordance with the statutory means and merits tests. Safeguards were also in place to ensure the proper and fair provision of legal aid services, and LAD's provision of legal aid services was overseen by the independent LASC.

Assessment of financial resources of legal aid applicants

30. At the meeting on 16 February 2015, suggestion was made that LAD should review the assessment of financial resources of applicants. A member pointed out that at present, the determination of an applicant's financial resources would include those of the applicant's spouse, even though the applicant had separated from his/her spouse. Another example was that in determining an application for a probate case, the LAD would assess the financial resources of all of the beneficiaries of the estate concerned. As such, if, say, only the financial resources of one of the five beneficiaries exceeded the FEL of OLAS or SLAS, legal aid would be refused.

Assignment of cases to and nomination of solicitors/counsel

31. When the Panel discussed the Ombudsman's Investigation Report on "Monitoring of Assigned-out Cases by Legal Aid Department" in 2006, the Administration informed members that except for cases in which the aided persons had nominated their solicitors/counsel, LAD would assign a solicitor/counsel from its Legal Aid Panels who should possess the experience in handling at least 15 similar cases in the past three years. Not more than 50 cases would be assigned to the same solicitor/counsel in a year. Even if the aided person had nominated a solicitor/counsel, LAD would ensure that the solicitor/counsel concerned possessed the necessary experience in handling the case.

32. During the policy briefing by the Secretary for Home Affairs on the Chief Executive's 2011-2012 Policy Address on 20 October 2011, members enquired about the criteria adopted by LAD for assigning solicitors/counsel to legally aided persons. The Administration advised that section 13(1) of LAO stipulated that LAD might assign solicitors or counsel to be selected by the aided person to act for them. In the assignment of legal aid cases, LAD would adhere to the

fundamental principle that the aided person's interest was of paramount importance. Other factors, such as the nature and complexity of cases, experience and performance of the lawyers would also be taken into account. The Administration stressed that confidence in one's own legal representative was essential in the conduct of legal proceedings and hence, as long as the solicitor/counsel nominated by the aided person was legally qualified and did not have poor performance record, LAD would normally accede to and not reject an aided person's choice of solicitor/counsel unless there were compelling reasons to do so.

Council questions

33. Members have discussed various aspects of the provision of legal aid and the assignment of lawyers to legally aided persons by LAD at different meetings of the Council. Details of the Council questions are hyperlinked in **Appendix II** for ease of reference.

Latest position

34. The Home Affairs Bureau will brief members on provision of legal aid and assignment of lawyers to legally aided persons by LAD.

Relevant papers

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

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20 March 2015

Selection of Counsel and Solicitors for Legal Aid Assignments

Legal aid work is not distributed to counsel or solicitors on the Legal Aid Panel equally regardless of merits, the legally aided persons' interests being the paramount consideration. The Legal Aid Department's primary duty is therefore towards the aided persons by facilitating the access and attainment of justice through competent legal representation. Counsel or solicitors are selected by Legal Aid Council having regard to the level of experience and expertise of the practitioners concerned and the type and complexity of the particular case. In general, counsel or solicitors are selected in accordance with the following criteria:

General

2. Counsel or solicitors should –
 - (a) be on the Legal Aid Panel;
 - (b) be in active practice;
 - (c) have a satisfactory past performance record*;
 - (d) satisfy the minimum experience requirement specified for the relevant area of work;
 - (e) not exceed the limit on assignments of legal aid work and/or, where appropriate, costs and fees paid or payable for such work in the past 12 months;
 - (f) (in the case of solicitors) have the necessary support and facilities afforded by their firms to handle legal aid work.

Minimum Experience Requirements

Civil Case

3. Counsel or solicitors should –
 - (a) have at least 3 years of post-call / post-admission experience; and
 - (b) have handled a minimum number of civil cases in the relevant area of work within a specified period –
 - (i) for medical negligence, professional negligence, administrative / constitutional law (including Bill of Rights) cases, have handled at least 5 such cases* in the past 3 years; and

- (ii) for other cases, have handled at least 16 cases* in the relevant area of work in the past 3 years.

Criminal Cases

4. Counsel or solicitors should –
- (a) have at least 3 years of post-call / post-admission experience;
 - (b) have handled at least 5 cases* in the past 3 years in the relevant area of work; and
 - (c) meet the minimum experience requirements specified below –
 - (i) *Cases in the District Court*
 - at least 3 years relevant criminal litigation experience;
 - (ii) *Cases in the Court of First Instance and appeals from the Magistrates' Court*
 - at least 5 years relevant criminal litigation experience;
 - (iii) *Appeals to Court of Appeal and Court of Final Appeal[#]*
 - Court of Appeal:
 - Counsel – at least 7 years relevant criminal litigation experience
 - Solicitors – at least 5 years relevant criminal litigation experience
 - Court of Final Appeal:
 - Counsel – at least 10 years relevant criminal litigation experience
 - Solicitors – at least 7 years relevant criminal litigation experience
- * including both legally aided and non-legally aided cases
- [#] the number of cases handled in the Court of Appeal and the Court of Final Appeal are considered jointly for the purpose of counting past experience in paragraph (c)(iii) above.
5. For Senior Counsel, they are exempted from the minimum experience requirements for assignment of legal aid work.

Limits on Legal Aid Assignments

6. Assignments should not generally exceed the limits set out below –
- Civil Cases:*
- (a) for solicitors – 45 cases within the past 12 months; and
 - (b) for counsel – 25 cases within the past 12 months.
- Criminal Cases:*
- (a) for solicitors – 30 cases or \$600,000 legal aid costs within the past 12 months (whichever occurs first); and

(b) for counsel – 30 cases or \$1.2 million legal aid fees within the past 12 months (whichever occurs first).

7. Assignment to counsel and solicitors who do not meet the above selection criteria may be allowed with the approval of a directorate officer.

* In the assignment of legal aid cases, the Department will take into account such matters as the Record of Unsatisfactory Performance/Conduct and the record of disciplinary decisions of the Bar Association and the Law Society for which the Department maintains a separate list.

Appendix II

Relevant documents on provision of legal aid and assignment of lawyers to legally aided persons by the Legal Aid Department

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
<p>Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services ("AJLS Panel")</p>	<p>29 March 2010</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)1148/09-10(01)]</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)1156/09-10(06)]</p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)1581/09-10]</p> <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>)</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)]</p>

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
Legislative Council	30 June 2010	Official Record of Proceedings of the Council on a written question raised by Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
AJLS Panel	30 September 2010	<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)]</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)2304/09-10(01)]</p> <p>Submission from the Hong Kong Bar Association [LC Paper No. CB(2)2327/09-10(01)] <i>(English version only)</i></p> <p>Submission from the Law Society of Hong Kong [LC Paper No. CB(2)2329/09-10(01)] <i>(English version only)</i></p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)524/10-11]</p>

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
AJLS Panel	28 February 2011	<p>LegCo Brief on five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants" [File Ref: HAB/CR 19/1/48]</p> <p>Background brief on "Legislative amendments to implement the proposals arising from the 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)1136/10-11(08)]</p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)1482/10-11]</p>
AJLS Panel	28 March 2011	<p>Paper provided by the Administration on the "Review of the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme" [LC Paper No. CB(2)1320/10-11(01)]</p> <p>Submission from the Hong Kong Bar Association [LC Paper No. CB(2)1373/10-11(01)]</p> <p>Background brief on "Expansion of the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)1332/10-11(04)]</p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)259/11-12]</p>
Legislative Council	19 October 2011	<p>Official Record of Proceedings of the Council on a written question raised by Hon Starry LEE Wai-king</p>

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
AJLS Panel	20 December 2011	<p>Paper provided by the Administration on the "Further expansion of the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme" [LC Paper No. CB(2)600/11-12(01)]</p> <p>Updated background brief on "Further expansion of the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)624/11-12(06)]</p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)1932/11-12]</p>
AJLS Panel	30 January 2012	<p>Paper provided by the Administration on the "Processing of legal aid applications relating to judicial review and assignment of lawyers in civil legally-aided cases" [LC Paper No. CB(2)863/11-12(01)]</p> <p>Submission from the Hong Kong Bar Association on "The need and benefits of having an independent legal aid authority" [LC Paper No. CB(2)918/11-12(01)] <i>(English version only)</i></p> <p>Background brief on "Issues relating to the provision of legal aid for judicial review cases" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)871/11-12(06)]</p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)2762/11-12]</p>
Legislative Council	23 May 2012	<p>Official Record of Proceedings of the Council on a written question raised by Hon CHAN Kin-por</p>

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
Legislative Council	12 February 2014	Official Record of Proceedings of the Council on a written question raised by Hon NG Leung-sing
Legislative Council	26 March 2014	Official Record of Proceedings of the Council on an oral question raised by Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming
AJLS Panel	24 June 2014	<p>Paper provided by the Administration on the "Legal Aid Services Council's recommendations on the independence of legal aid" [LC Paper No. CB(4)822/13-14(05)]</p> <p>Submission from the Hong Kong Bar Association on "The need and benefits of having an independent legal aid authority" [LC Paper No. CB(4)/854/13-14(01)] <i>(English version only)</i></p> <p>Paper provided by the Administration on the "Progress report on the review of the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme and operation of the Two-year Pilot Scheme to provide legal advice for litigants in person" [LC Paper No. CB(4)822/13-14(06)]</p> <p>Background brief on "Implementation of the measures to strengthen the governance and operational transparency of the Legal Aid Department" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(4)822/13-14(07)]</p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(4)94/14-15]</p>
Legislative Council	20 November 2014	Official Record of Proceedings of the Council on a written question raised by Hon NG Leung-sing

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
AJLS Panel	16 February 2015	Paper provided by the Administration on the "Proposed amendment of the Legal Aid (Assessment of Resources and Contributions) Regulations (Cap. 91B) and adjustment of the financial eligibility limits of the Ordinary and Supplementary Legal Aid Schemes" [LC Paper No. CB(4)493/14-15(04)]

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