

Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services

List of follow-up actions

(position as at 12 October 2015)

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up actions required	Response of the responsible party
<p>1. Provision of legal aid and assignments of lawyers to legally aided persons by the Legal Aid Department ("LAD")</p>	<p>23 March 2015</p>	<p>LAD was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p><u>Receiving and processing of applications</u></p> <p><i>Civil cases</i></p> <p>(a) numbers of civil legal aid applications received, granted and refused under the Ordinary Legal Aid Scheme ("OLAS") and the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme ("SLAS") each year in the past three years;</p> <p>(b) target processing time and performance pledge for civil legal aid applications and the percentage of civil legal aid applications processed within the performance pledge in each year in the past three years;</p>	<p>The Administration's reply was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)1511/14-15(01) on 9 October 2015.</p>
		<p><i>Criminal cases</i></p>	

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up actions required	Response of the responsible party
		<p>(c) numbers of criminal legal aid applications received, granted and refused under OLAS each year in the past three years;</p> <p>(d) target processing time and performance pledge for criminal legal aid applications and the percentage of criminal legal aid applications processed within the performance pledge in each year in the past three years;</p> <p><i>Cases relating to "Occupy Central" movement</i></p> <p>(e) numbers of applications received and refused for cases arising from or relating to the "Occupy Central" movement;</p> <p>(f) average time taken to complete the processing of all legal aid applications arising from or relating to the "Occupy Central" movement;</p> <p>(g) number of legal aid cases concerning the "Occupy Central" movement in which the lawyers assigned to handle the case were nominated by the aided persons;</p>	
		<p><i>Human rights cases</i></p> <p>(h) numbers of applications relating to</p>	

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up actions required	Response of the responsible party
		<p>human rights received and refused each year in the past three years;</p> <p>(i) numbers of legal aid certificates issued for human rights cases each year in the past three years whereby the financial eligibility limit of the aided persons was waived by the Director of Legal Aid;</p> <p><i>Applications involving complicated legal issues</i></p> <p>(j) number of independent legal opinion sought from outside counsel under section 9 of the Legal Aid Ordinance ("LAO") (Cap. 91) for applications involving complicated legal issues and the number of counsel who provided such section 9 opinions for each year in the past three years;</p> <p><u>Legal aid costs</u></p> <p>(k) the amounts spent on civil legal aid cases by case types under OLAS and SLAS each year in the past three years;</p>	
		<p>(l) the amounts spent on criminal legal aid cases by case types under OLAS each year in the past three years;</p>	

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up actions required	Response of the responsible party
		<p data-bbox="831 172 1429 209"><u>Assignment of lawyers to aided persons</u></p> <p data-bbox="831 260 1547 515">(m) the number of civil cases assigned to the 50 Panel counsel and solicitors with the most number of assigned cases, the types of cases assigned, and the total amounts of legal fees expended to these counsels and solicitors in the past year; and</p> <p data-bbox="831 566 1547 821">(n) the number of criminal cases assigned to the 50 Panel counsel with the most number of assigned cases, the types of cases assigned, and the total amounts of legal fees expended to these counsel in the past year.</p> <p data-bbox="831 858 1424 895">The Government was also requested to:</p> <p data-bbox="831 946 1547 1118">(a) follow up with the Legal Aid Services Council ("LASC") Working Group on Expansion of SLAS on providing a progress report of its review;</p> <p data-bbox="831 1206 1547 1422">(b) follow up with LASC that it should suitably consider the views of or consult further with the Hong Kong Bar Association and The Law Society of Hong Kong regarding the review; and</p>	

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up actions required	Response of the responsible party
		(c) review the existing limits on legal aid assignments, in view of the comments made by some members of the legal sector that legal aid work was often distributed to same counsels and solicitors on the Legal Aid Panel.	
2. Manpower and other support for the Judiciary	18 May 2015	<p>JA was requested to provide the following information:</p> <p>(a) the number of eligible overseas applicants for the Court of First Instance of the High Court Judge posts every year in the past 10 years; and</p> <p>(b) the number of retired High Court Judges appointed by the Chief Justice to be external deputy High Court Judges in the past year.</p>	JA's responses were issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)1369/14-15(01) on 27 July 2015.
3. Review on the implementation of Civil Justice Reform ("CJR")	18 May 2015	JA undertook to check and revert to members whether there had been a review on the implementation of CJR in the United Kingdom, and if so, whether the review had covered the use of sanctioned payments to settle disputes.	JA's reply was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)1321/14-15(01) on 14 July 2015.

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up actions required	Response of the responsible party
4. The administration of the Estate of the late Mrs Nina WANG	20 July 2015	DoJ was requested to provide: (a) information on the arrangements approved by the Court concerning the interim administration of the Estate of the late Mrs Nina WANG ("the Estate") as well as the background, qualification and remuneration of each Board director of the Chinachem Group; and (b) a breakdown of the properties of the Estate.	Response awaited.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
12 October 2015