LC Paper No. ESC90/16-17(01)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE Administration and Development Division

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21 April 2017

Ms Connie SZETO Clerk to the Establishment Sub-committee Legislative Council

Dear Ms SZETO,

## Submission in relation to Establishment Sub-committee Paper EC(2016-17)26

I refer to the written enquiries dated 19 April 2017 regarding Establishment Sub-committee Paper EC(2016-17)26 proposing to make permanent one time-limited Deputy Principal Government Counsel (DPGC) (DL2) post in the Legal Policy Division (LPD) of the Department of Justice (DoJ) responsible for undertaking essential duties in respect of constitutional and electoral matters.

When consulted, counsel of the Constitutional Development and Elections Unit of the LPD, including the DPGC who heads it, provide legal advice to the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, the Registration and Electoral Office, etc., on legal matters relating to, inter alia, the conduct of public elections in the HKSAR.

It is inappropriate for DoJ to disclose the advice it provides which is protected by legal professional privilege.

Yours sincerely,

(Alan Siu) Director of Administration and Development Department of Justice