

**For information**

**Legislative Council Panel on  
Administration of Justice and Legal Services**

**Hong Kong e-Legislation (HKeL)  
to be the only government legislation website from 1 July 2018**

**Purpose**

This paper updates members on the decommissioning arrangement for the Bilingual Laws Information System (BLIS) and the development of HKeL.

2. HKeL was launched in February 2017. To facilitate the transition from BLIS to HKeL, the two websites have been in parallel run. After consulting the HKeL Liaison Group members on 23 October 2017<sup>1</sup> as well as considering the views of the legal profession provided by Hon. Dennis Kwok, it has been decided that BLIS will discontinue service on 1 July 2018. HKeL will be the only government legislation website from that date.<sup>2</sup>

**Publicity arrangement**

*Advance notice*

3. Advance notice on the decommissioning of BLIS was posted on the homepage of HKeL and BLIS in December 2017. A count-down feature was added to the BLIS website in March 2018 to inform users of the number of days before the decommissioning. The same notice was also included in the DoJ's website (in the "Laws of Hong Kong" page) in April 2018.

*User's guides*

4. In order to help users to adapt to HKeL, we have further updated the "Guide to performing basic Bilingual Laws Information System (BLIS)

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<sup>1</sup> HKeL Liaison Group comprises representatives from the Law Society of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Bar Association, Judiciary and the Secretariat of the Legislative Council. Members were consulted on the proposed BLIS decommission date of 26 January 2018.

<sup>2</sup> From 1 July 2018, traffic to the BLIS website ([www.blis.gov.hk](http://www.blis.gov.hk)) will be redirected to a static landing page where users could access HKeL by a simple click.

functions in Hong Kong e-Legislation (HKeL)”. This was done in December 2017 with more examples being given. Another guide “How to maintain printed copies of legislation” was published in November 2017 to further facilitate our users to transition from the Loose-leaf regime to the verified copy regime.

#### *Press releases and HKeL leaflet*

5. We issued a press release on the decommissioning of BLIS on 25 May 2018 to inform the general public of the arrangement. Another press release will be issued as a reminder shortly before the decommission date.

6. An introductory leaflet about HKeL will be published in June 2018. It will be placed in the district offices and public libraries and at the sales counter of the government bookstore to inform users on how to find HK legislation online.

#### *HKeL briefing sessions*

7. We have organized briefing sessions on HKeL and its advance functionalities for members of the legal profession as they have to access legislation on a daily basis. A series of sessions was organized for the Judiciary from January to March 2018. As of May 2018, a total of 12 CPD classes on HKeL had been given to legal practitioners and their supporting staff. There will also be a HKeL briefing session for the members of the Bar Association in June 2018.

#### **HKeL enhancements**

8. We value users’ feedback and comments and are committed to improving and enhancing the functionalities and user-friendliness of HKeL. The following enhancements have been implemented since its launch—

- (a) Inclusion of a progress bar

In July 2017, a progress bar was added to the “View Legislation” page to show users the loading progress of a chapter.

(b) Chapter Number Index (with PDF links added)

In order to facilitate the download of PDF copies of legislation, the Chapter Number Index was enhanced in September 2017 with PDF links inserted next to the chapter titles. Users can conveniently download PDF copies of different chapters using the Index.

(c) Enhanced Quick Search

The Quick Search function was also enhanced in September 2017 so that after a user types a chapter number in the search box and clicks “Go To” or press “Enter”, HKeL will directly open the chapter in whole enactment mode (with the “table of contents” panel on the left hand side) to facilitate navigation.

(d) Renaming of the “HTML” button

In October 2017, the “HTML” button on the “View Legislation” page was renamed as “Print HTML” with printing tips included for users’ handy reference.

9. We will introduce further enhancements in the coming months to facilitate quicker and easier access to legislation. A “quick links panel” will be included in the HKeL homepage to direct users to the most frequently-accessed pages e.g. Chapter Number Index and Glossaries of Legal Terms. In addition, the Quick Search feature will be enhanced to provide direct access to a specific provision in a particular chapter. Furthermore, we plan to provide copies of legislation in Rich Text Format (RTF) to facilitate the “copy-and-paste” of legislative text in emails or other documents.

10. In early May, we demonstrated the prototypes of the above proposed new enhancements to the HKeL Liaison Group members. With their support, we will implement the enhancements in the forthcoming months. The user’s guides, slideshows and video clips will also be correspondingly updated.

## **Conclusion**

11. HKeL marks a new milestone in the Government’s efforts in facilitating

access to legislation by the public. We will continue to listen to the views of our users and to improve the system's functionalities and user-friendliness to ensure it is a useful infrastructure for the benefit of the general public and legal profession.

**Department of Justice**  
**May 2018**