

PUBLIC INTEREST DEFENCE IN CRIMINAL LAW

The Law Society's Criminal Law & Procedure Committee have reviewed the following material :-

- 1) Paper prepared by the Legal Adviser to the Panel;
- 2) The Administration's paper No.CB(2)1506/98-99(06).

The Committee is of the opinion that notwithstanding the views expressed in the 2 papers, insufficient material has been provided to enable an informed discussion to take place. The Committee is of the view that it would be premature to comment on any proposal to adopt a new defence of 'Public Interest'. If the matter is to be taken forward, the Committee considers that a significant amount of research, particularly on the position in other Common Law jurisdictions should be undertaken.

**The Law Society of Hong Kong
23 March 1999**