



THE
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 OF HONG KONG
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24th March 2006

Mr. James O'Neil,
 Deputy Solicitor General
 (Constitutional),
 Department of Justice,
 4/F., High Block,
 Queensway Government Offices,
 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

Dear Mr. O'Neil,

Limited Liability Partnerships

Thank you for your letter dated 9th March addressed to the President who has asked me to respond.

The Law Society is disappointed to read your letter informing us that during the remaining term of the Chief Executive priority would not be given to further studies of the proposals made by the Law Society and the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Your letter does not contain any cogent explanation as to why the proposal for the creation of limited liability partnerships should not proceed or that it necessarily forms part of a package involving proportionate liability and amendments to the Companies Ordinance.

The Law Society went to some trouble to draft a bill to give effect to the proposal to enable limited liability partnerships to be established and we find it difficult to understand your reasons for not taking the matter further. Hong Kong prides itself on being a leading service and international business and finance centre. Limited liability partnerships are a vehicle to enable professionals to operate in a more effective way in providing services which would compliment Hong Kong's international status. We very much regret the decision not to study the proposal further or proceed with it.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Moss
 Secretary General

c.c. Ms. Winnie Cheung, Chief Executive, Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants
 The Hon. Margaret Ng

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