



Proposed transfer of Legal Aid portfolio to the Home Affairs Bureau

1. The Law Society notes the Administration's proposal to transfer the Legal Aid portfolio to the Home Affairs Bureau on the basis that:

“Legal aid is a stand-alone policy subject that is getting increasingly detailed and complex. Accordingly, the Administration considers it appropriate to place the subject on par with other equally important policies, viz. under a Director of Bureau.....intends to place the portfolio within the purview of the HAB.”

2. The Law Society notes the proposed transfer should not affect the statutory role of the Legal Aid Services Council (“LASC”) which reports directly to the Chief Executive on legal aid policy and supervises the provision of legal aid services provided by the Legal Aid Department (“LAD”). The Law Society adopts a neutral stance on the proposed transfer.
3. The Law Society considers a more meaningful policy review should ensure that the role of both the LASC and LAD are truly independent of the Administration under the sole supervision of the LASC.

The Law Society of Hong Kong

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