



THE
LAW SOCIETY
OF HONG KONG
香港律師會

立法會 CB(2)1349/09-10(05)號文件
(只備英文本)

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Practitioners Affairs

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14 April 2010

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Ms. Flora Tai
Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms. Tai,

**Re: Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services
Meeting on 26 April 2010**

Thank you for your letter dated 9 April 2010 addressed to the Secretary General and I have been asked to send a reply on his behalf.

Item IV - Proposed Construction of the West Kowloon Law Courts Building

Please note the Law Society has consulted its court users and has sent the attached commentary to the Judiciary.

Items VI

The Law Society has been briefed by the Law Drafting Division on its proposals in relation to its plans to update the document format of legislation and has no comments.

Item VII

The Law Society supports this proposal by the Administration and requests adequate funding will be provided to enable it to be a valuable resource for not only for the legal professions but also for the community generally.

The Law Society will not be sending any representatives to attend the Panel meeting on the above items on 26 April 2010.

Yours sincerely,

Joyce Wong
Director of Practitioners Affairs
e-mail: dpa@hklawsoc.org.hk

c.c. Secretary-General



West Kowloon Law Courts Building

We raise the following issues of importance for consideration:

1. Location near to multiple public transportation links. Kowloon City Court is an example of an appallingly located court which is only accessible by taxi or by multiple changes of public transport resulting in excessive travel time.
2. Internal lift access to the cells – it is important to enable DLS and private lawyers to attend the cells to advise clients without having to leave the building. Kowloon City Court again is an example of an appallingly designed court where lawyers and DLS staff have to bear adverse weather conditions every time they visit clients.
3. Sufficient lift access for members of the public and lawyers and not just for court staff, judiciary and Department of Justice. Eastern Court is an example where there is an over allocation of lifts for court staff/ prosecution office and judiciary and inadequate number of lifts for the public and legal professionals.
4. Easy access to the prosecution offices for lawyers.
5. Sufficient cells consultation rooms for private lawyers. The proposed number may be insufficient unless DLS has its own designated consultation rooms in the cells area.
6. Sufficient consultation rooms - note the proposals consistently list the number of witness waiting rooms as double that of consultation rooms. The consultation rooms must be designed to allow for sufficient privacy for lawyer client consultations.
7. Allow for possible future provision of Domestic Violence Courts with related special facilities- in line with the UK and developments in DVO.
8. Free wifi should be available throughout the court building, especially in the consultation rooms.
9. A decent canteen to cater for court users which should include proper seating and table facilities. A kiosk would be unacceptable.
10. Use of environmentally friendly materials and technology in the building to reduce carbon footprint and enhance use of natural light and sources of power.

11. Aesthetically pleasing building design - and not just a monstrous box.
12. Car parks for public and legal representatives. We suggest car parking facilities could be provided for private practitioners in the ratio of 1.5 car parking space for each court room.

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