

政府總部
民政事務局

香港灣仔
軒尼詩道一百三十號
修頓中心三十一樓



**GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
HOME AFFAIRS BUREAU**

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HONG KONG.

本局檔號 OUR REF: S/F (1) to HAB/CR/19/1/7 Pt.11
來函檔號 YOUR REF: Criminal
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9 December 2009

Chairman and Members of the
Criminal Law & Procedure Committee
and Supporters of the Criminal Legal Aid Reform
c/o The Law Society of Hong Kong
3/F Wing On House
71 Des Voeux Road
Hong Kong

Dear Sirs,

Criminal Legal Aid Fees

I refer to your open letter of 16 September 2009 to the Secretary for Home Affairs in respect of the Review of Criminal Legal Aid Fees.

The Government is committed to providing reasonable and effective remuneration for legal aid lawyers within the remits of public affordability. During our discussion with the profession on the review of the fee system since 2006, we share the view of the legal profession that the criminal legal aid fee system has room for enhancement and we have taken on board many of the profession's suggestions.

The Government's move to increase the criminal legal aid expenditure by about \$100 million (which would increase the remuneration of solicitors by 120% to 400%, depending on individual cases) is the best possible package to enhance remuneration of solicitors engaged in the provision of this very important service.

We would proceed to make preparations for the legislative process to effect the new system and new fees, in the hope that a consensus can be reached. We appeal to the legal profession for continued support to provide effective legal aid services to the public.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Grace LUI)
for Secretary for Home Affairs

c.c. Hon Margaret NG
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Mr Ho Hei-wah
Director of Legal Aid
Clerk to the Legislative Council Panel on Administration of
Justice and Legal Services