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Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 21 December 2010**

Review of scope of the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme

Purpose

This paper provides background information and summarizes the discussions of the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services ("the Panel") on issues relating to the review of the scope of the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme ("SLAS").

Background

Government's legal aid policy and framework

2. According to Article 35 of the Basic Law, Hong Kong residents shall have the right to confidential legal advice, access to the courts, choice of lawyers for timely protection of their lawful rights and interests or for representation in the courts, and to judicial remedies. Article 14(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ("ICCPR") guarantees all individuals the right to a fair hearing in both criminal and civil proceedings. Article 14(3) further provides that a person charged with criminal offence shall be entitled to "have legal assistance assigned to him, in any case where the interests of justice so require, and without payment by him if he does not have sufficient means to pay for it." The Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance (Cap. 383) incorporates into Hong Kong law the provisions of ICCPR as applied to Hong Kong.

3. The Government's policy objective on legal aid is to ensure that no one with reasonable grounds for taking legal action in the Hong Kong courts is prevented from doing so because of a lack of means.

4. The Legal Aid Ordinance (Cap. 91) ("LAO"), enacted in 1967, sets out the legal framework for the administration of legal aid. Legal aid is provided by the Legal Aid Department ("LAD") under the Ordinary Legal Aid Scheme

("OLAS") and SLAS. Legal aid will be granted to applicants who satisfy the means test and the merits test.

5. The Legal Aid Services Council ("LASC") was set up on 1 September 1996 under the Legal Aid Services Council Ordinance (Cap. 489) to supervise the provision of legal aid services provided by LAD and to advise the Government on legal aid policy.

SLAS

6. SLAS is a self-financing scheme introduced in 1984 aiming to provide legal aid for the middle class. The scheme was limited initially to cover claims for damages for personal and fatal injuries. It was subsequently extended to cover employees' compensation claims in 1992 and medical, dental as well as legal professional negligence in 1995. Its current scope covers cases of personal injury or death, medical, dental and legal professional negligence where the claim is likely to exceed \$60,000. It also covers claims under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance (Cap. 282) irrespective of the amount of claim.

7. The scheme is available to those whose financial resources exceed \$175,800 but do not exceed \$488,400. The costs of the scheme are met from the Supplementary Legal Aid Fund ("SLAS Fund"), which is financed by the applicants' contributions and damages or compensation recovered. The rates of contribution from damages recovered by successful aided persons were reduced twice, in 2000 and 2005, to the present 6% for cases settled before delivery of brief to counsel and 10% for other cases. Statistics on the amount of contributions required to be paid by the aided persons under SLAS and information on the number of successful and unsuccessful SLAS cases (together with the net gain arising from recovery of damages in successful cases and the costs for unsuccessful ones) in 2006 to 2008 as provided by the Administration are in **Appendices I and II** respectively

8. Members may wish to note that as a result of the recently completed five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants ("five-yearly review"), the Administration has proposed to raise the financial eligibility limit ("FEL") for SLAS from \$488,400 to \$1.3 million.

Recent discussions of the Panel and related developments

9. The Panel has made long standing calls for expansion of the scope of SLAS. Relevant discussions held by the Panel in the context of the current five-yearly review at the meetings on 29 March, 24 May, 21 July, 30 September and 22 November 2010 are summarized in the following paragraphs.

Expansion of the scope of SLAS

10. The Panel all along held the view that given the success of SLAS in widening access to justice, there was a strong case for expanding the scope of the scheme. Members pointed out that SLAS started off as a small self-financing scheme with limited funding, and hence legal assistance could only be provided for restricted types of proceedings in order to maintain its financial viability. With the successful operation of SLAS over the years, it was time for the Administration to consider expanding the scope of SLAS. Both the Hong Kong Bar Association ("Bar Association") and the Law Society of Hong Kong were supportive of the proposed expansion. In its Report on Conditional Fees published in July 2007, the Law Reform Commission also recommended increasing the types of cases covered under SLAS.

11. When the Administration reported to the Panel on its proposals arising from the current five-yearly review on 29 March 2010, it advised the Panel of its recommendation not to expand the scope of SLAS to cover other categories of cases. According to the Administration, any proposal for extending the scope of SLAS must not undermine or jeopardize its financial viability, given its self-financing nature. SLAS was by design aimed at cases which involved monetary claims of a reasonable size, with a high success rate and a reasonably good chance of recovering damages. The Administration stressed that if the scope of SLAS was to be extended to cover cases which did not fulfill such criteria, the SLAS Fund would be exposed to financial risk.

12. Members did not subscribe to the Administration's view and urged the Administration to consider seriously expanding the scope of SLAS with a view to enhancing the middle class' access to justice. Members considered that the expansion of SLAS would not have any adverse impact on the financial viability of the scheme, given that only applicants whose case or defence had been assessed to have a reasonable chance of success would be granted assistance under the scheme, and a percentage of damages or compensation would be recovered from successful SLAS cases and paid into the SLAS Fund. Some members had also suggested that the scope of SLAS should be expanded to cover monetary claims arising from systemic financial disputes (such as those relating to Lehman Brothers-related minibonds) and appeals relating to judgments delivered by various tribunals. The Panel also requested LASC to look into the issue of expansion of SLAS and revert to the Panel on its recommendations, including the outcome of the study by its Interest Group on Scope of Legal Aid ("Interest Group") on the feasibility of setting up a second-tier SLAS to further improve legal aid services.

13. At the meeting on 21 July 2010, members noted the proposals put forward by the Bar Association for expanding the scope of SLAS. The Bar Association set out in its submission (LC Paper No. CB(2)2105/09-10(01)) various types of cases which were already covered by insurance either as a matter of law or practice, including mis-selling of financial and insurance products, claims against other types of professional negligence presently not covered by SLAS (such as services provided by accountants, estate agents, surveyors and engineers) and disputes relating to trusts. The Bar Association proposed that SLAS should be expanded to cover these areas for which recoverability of damages should not be an issue, thereby addressing the Administration's concern that expanding the coverage of SLAS would undermine the financial viability of the scheme. The Panel passed a motion requesting that the Administration should, based on the Bar Association's proposals, conduct a study as soon as possible on the implementation of measures to expand and improve legal aid services.

14. At the meeting on 30 September 2010, the Panel was advised that the study being conducted by LASC's Interest Group, which was chaired by a representative from the Bar Association and comprised members from different sectors including the legal profession, academia and non-governmental organizations, was expected to conclude by around end of November 2010 and the Interest Group was studying the Bar Association's proposals along with its own study. The Administration would come to its view on the issue after consideration of the recommendations from LASC.

Criteria for assessing the coverage of SLAS

15. The Panel was advised by the Administration that in considering the proposed scope for further expansion of SLAS, the Administration needed to adhere to the principles which helped sustain the financial viability of the SLAS Fund, namely (a) the types of cases to be covered by SLAS should have a high chance of recovery and a high success rate; (b) they should have a good cost to damage ratio and; (c) such cases were socially-deserving. On the meaning of "socially-deserving" cases, the Administration advised that cases where employees had been granted awards by the Labour Tribunal ("LT") but the employers appealed against the awards and the employees lacked the means to seek legal representation in the appeals would be one example.

16. Some members expressed the view that it was not necessary for the Administration to adopt an excessively prudent approach in considering the types of cases to be covered under SLAS. They pointed out that the Director of Legal Aid ("DLA") had all along been very prudent in assessing legal aid applications and case monitoring. For cases with a low chance of recovery of

damages or low damages to cost ratio, DLA would exercise discretion to reject the applications or ensure early settlements as appropriate. The fact that over 90% of the SLAS cases were successful in the claims showed that DLA had been very prudent in the scrutiny of the merits of cases. Furthermore, the areas of expansion proposed by the Bar Association involved mostly monetary claims where the defendants were often large corporations. Hence, they considered that there was no cause for concern that the proposed expansion of SLAS would undermine the financial viability of SLAS.

17. Some members also stressed that the decision on the coverage of SLAS should not be based solely on economic considerations; facilitating access to justice and upholding the rule of law should also be prime considerations. They pointed out that the existing scope of SLAS also covered difficult types of cases (such as medical negligence) which were costly to fight and the high legal costs were not affordable by the general public. They called on the Administration to consider seriously the Bar Association's proposals for expanding SLAS, which were mostly concerned with protection of consumer interests such as claims against financial institutions and insurance companies concerning financial and insurance products.

18. The Administration reiterated that given the self-financing nature of SLAS, it was necessary to exercise great prudence in considering the types of cases to be covered under the scheme to ensure that the sustainability of the SLAS Fund could be maintained. The Administration stressed that if there were many SLAS cases where damages could not be recovered from the defendants, the SLAS Fund would be exposed to financial risk. The Administration also pointed out that if a legally aided person was unsuccessful in his claim, the SLAS Fund had to pay the legal costs of both parties, which could involve significant sums. At the Panel's request, LAD provided in November 2010 a statistical analysis and a preliminary analysis of some relevant factors for assessing whether certain categories of cases were appropriate for inclusion under SLAS; these are given in **Appendices III and IV** respectively. The Administration stressed that it had not yet formed any opinion based on these analyses. Members also noted the Bar Association's views that there were flaws with LAD's preliminary analysis. The Bar Association agreed to provide details of its views in writing.

Injection into the SLAS Fund

19. In his 2010-2011 Policy Address delivered on 13 October 2010, the Chief Executive announced that to complement the SLAS review being conducted by LASC, and to benefit more people from the middle class, the Government would earmark \$100 million for injection into the SLAS fund when necessary to

expand the scheme to cover more types of cases, such as claims for damages for professional negligence in a wider range of professions, and claims to recover outstanding wages and other employee benefits.

20. Members generally supported the proposed injection of \$100 million into the SLAS Fund to increase its reserve for use as necessary. Some members expressed concern whether the proposed injection of funding was a firm undertaking on the part of the Administration or whether there were strings attached to it. The Administration assured members that it was committed to injecting money into the SLAS Fund to complement the SLAS review conducted by LASC. The Administration explained that as it had yet to come to its views on expansion of SLAS and the approval of the Finance Committee was required, it could only be stated in the Policy Address that the Government had earmarked the amount for injection into the SLAS Fund when necessary. Members also noted from the Chairman of LASC that in its recommendations to be submitted to the Chief Executive, LASC had recommended that the whole sum of \$100 million should be injected into the SLAS Fund in one go.

21. On the question of whether the Administration would inject more money into the SLAS Fund if the proposed \$100 million was found to be insufficient, the Administration advised that the proposal to inject \$100 million into the SLAS Fund was made after taking account of the previous injection of \$27 million into the Fund in 1995. Members noted the Administration's view that the proposed sum of \$100 million should presumably be sufficient, having regard to the self-financing nature of SLAS and given that the injection was to provide a reserve to the Fund to support the proposed expansion of the scheme.

Contribution required to be paid by aided persons

22. Members expressed concern about the apparent increase in the number of unrepresented litigants which added burden to the operation of the court. Information provided by the Judiciary Administration on the respective numbers of civil and criminal cases as well as cases of appeal against LT awards involving unrepresented litigants in the past three years has been issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)571/10-11(01) on 14 December 2010. Members also noted with concern that some applicants had turned down the grant of legal aid and represented themselves in court as they could not afford the cost involved, and sought clarification on whether any adjustments would be made to the contribution rates under OLAS and SLAS following the adjustments of FELs.

23. The Administration advised that it was studying the impact of the proposed increases of FELs on contribution payable under OLAS and SLAS and had not yet decided whether any adjustments should be made to the rates of

contribution. The Administration also advised that under the existing law, DLA did not have the discretion to waive the payment of contribution. Aided persons with financial difficulties could, however, have their contributions paid in instalments.

24. Some members considered that DLA should be given the discretion to waive the payment of contribution in cases where the legally aided applicants had financial difficulties in making such payment. They also suggested that consideration be given to setting different contribution rates for different types of cases, for instance, a lower contribution rate could apply to appeals relating to LT awards. Members also noted the Bar Association's view that higher contribution rates could be set for the new types of cases to be covered under the expanded scope of SLAS. The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel at the meeting on 21 December 2010 on its consideration of the various issues relating to contribution raised by members. LAD was also requested to provide information on the number of cases where applicants for legal aid had turned down the grant of legal aid due to the amount of contribution required to be paid and the amount of contribution involved in such cases.

Legislative timetable

25. When the subject was discussed at the meeting on 22 November 2010, members noted that the Administration aimed to report to the Panel on its specific proposals on the proposed expansion of SLAS in May 2011 and submit the relevant legislative amendment proposals to LegCo in June 2011. In response to members' request, the Administration agreed to advance the relevant timetable by about one month and submit the legislative proposals to LegCo in May 2011 instead of June 2011. The Administration was requested to critically review the timetables for the three sets of legislative proposals relating to FELs, the criminal legal aid fee system and expansion of the scope of SLAS to see whether there was room for advancing the timetables and revert to the Panel in writing on the concrete timetables before the next meeting.

Latest position

26. At the meeting of the Panel on 22 November 2010, members noted from LASC that its Interest Group had completed the study on expansion of the scope of SLAS and LASC's recommendations would be submitted to the Chief Executive in around end of November 2010. As agreed by the Panel, LASC has been invited to the meeting to be held on 21 December 2010 to brief the Panel on its recommendations on expansion of SLAS.

Relevant papers

27. A list of the relevant papers which are available on the LegCo website is in **Appendix V**.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
16 December 2010

**Amount of Contributions
required to be paid by Legally Aided Persons
under the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme in 2006**

Financial Resources		No. of Aided Persons	Amount of Contribution required to be paid \$
Exceed	Do not Exceed		
(1.1.2006 – 15.6.2006)		75	38,950
\$155,800	\$432,900		
(16.6.2006 – 31.12.2006)		52	39,575
\$158,300	\$439,800		
Total		127	-

**Amount of Contribution
required to be paid by Legally Aided Persons
under the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme in 2007**

Financial Resources		No. of Aided Persons	Amount of Contribution required to be paid \$
Exceed	Do not Exceed		
(1.1.2007 – 14.6.2007)		51	39,575
\$158,300	\$439,800		
(15.6.2007 – 13.12.2007)		28	40,575
\$162,300	\$450,800		
(14.12.2007 – 31.12.2007)		0	41,425
\$165,700	\$460,300		
Total		79	-

**Amount of Contribution
required to be paid by Legally Aided Persons
under the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme in 2008**

Financial Resources		No. of Aided Persons	Amount of Contribution required to be paid \$
Exceed	Do not Exceed		
\$165,700	\$460,300	95	41,425

Appendix II

Information on Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme cases

	No. of successful cases	No. of unsuccessful cases	Net gain arising from recovery of damages/compensation in successful cases (\$)	Costs of unsuccessful cases (\$)
2005-06	76	4	5,320,583	384,558
2006-07	86	9	2,479,251	4,269,106
2007-08	94	14	2,999,017	18,992,031

Notes : The above information is based on cases the accounts of which were finalised during the relevant financial year which runs from 1 October to 30 September the following year.

Year of Account Finalized	2008						2009					
Outcome Nature of Case ("Miscellaneous" case type)	Favour	Not in Favour	Discharged/ Revoked prior to proceedings	Discharged at AP's Request during proceedings	Discharged/ Revoked during proceedings	Total	Favour	Not in Favour	Discharged/ Revoked prior to proceedings	Discharged at AP's Request during proceedings	Discharged/ Revoked during proceedings	Total
Claims against financial inst. and Ins. Co. concerning financial products / financial services	1	1				2						0
Claims against Insurance Company		1	1			2	4					4
Flat buyer's Claims against Property Developer	1					1						0
Claims against Trust Management Company						0						0
Claims arising from SOG						0	1			1	1	3
Publicly Listed Co.						0						0
Claims by shareholders against publicly listed company						0						0
Claims against Estate Agent						0	1					1
Total :	2	2	1	0	0	5	6	0	0	1	1	8
Total Damages Awarded	500,000.00						1,342,029.45					
Total Damages received by AP	0.00						1,073,729.45					
Total Damages Awarded NOT received by AP	500,000.00						268,300.00					
Total Costs	196,330.67	1,304,224.81	149,684.00				819,780.00			144,410.00	8,364.00	
Total Amount of Costs Wirten off	155,705.00						95,410.50					

Preliminary analysis on the proposed expansion of SLAS

Suggestions of the Bar Association on expansion of SLAS made on 20 July 2010	LAD's preliminary analysis
<p>1. Mis-selling of financial products and claims against independent financial consultants – There are many complaints against mis-selling of financial products including that of the Lehman Brothers. As these financial institutions carry professional indemnity insurance, the expected recovery of cost is good. Also, there are unmet needs for claims from the community, in particular the elderly and retired groups of people. As such, it is suggested that such cases should be included under the extended scope of SLAS.</p>	<p>As far as we know, the average claim for mis-selling of financial products is about \$160,000 per case. Assuming that the case is successful and that the maximum rate of contribution, i.e. 10% is paid to the SLAS Fund, the amount received from a successful case is \$16,000. However, if the case is lost, the costs payable by the Fund to the legal advisors on both sides will be many times that of the contribution received.</p> <p>Considering the low cost to damage ratio, and that the number of claims will be high, extension of SLAS to cover these types of cases will have a substantial impact on the viability of the SLAS Fund.</p> <p>Aggrieved investors in financial products offered by banks and institutions under the jurisdiction of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) may lodge their complaints to the HKMA or the Consumer Council. Under an agreed arrangement in the context</p>

<p>Suggestions of the Bar Association on expansion of SLAS made on 20 July 2010</p>	<p>LAD's preliminary analysis</p>
	<p>of the Lehman Brothers incident, for more effective handling of a large number of complaints, cases received by the Consumer Council are sent to the HKMA for investigation in parallel to that conducted by the relevant institutions. With the consent of the complainants, the HKMA can refer those complaint cases closed with no further action after the completion of the enforcement process to the Consumer Council for its consideration of providing any further advice or assistance. Meritorious and representative cases involving significant consumer interests may also be considered for assistance under the Consumer Legal Action Fund.</p>
<p>2. Mis-selling of insurance products</p>	<p>We understand that there is already a well-established system for handling complaints which involve claims up to \$800,000 per case under the Insurance Claims Complaints Bureau (ICCB). In 2009, the ICCB handled 575 cases, of which 518 were new cases and 57 cases were brought forward from 2008. The main types of cases handled by the ICCB relate to personal insurance products, hospitalization/medical,</p>

<p>Suggestions of the Bar Association on expansion of SLAS made on 20 July 2010</p>	<p>LAD's preliminary analysis</p>
	<p>life/critical illness and travel insurance policies. One-sixth of such cases were mutually settled between the insurers and the complainants through the assistance of the ICCB. Others were presented to the Complaints Panel under the ICCB for deliberation.</p> <p>At present, these types of cases are covered under the Ordinary Legal Aid Scheme (OLAS). In 2008, two out of 12 closed cases were granted legal aid. In 2009, four out of 27 closed cases were granted legal aid.</p>
<p>3. Damages and accidents in buildings: multi-storey ownership</p>	<p>If such claims involve personal injuries, they are already covered under OLAS and SLAS.</p>
<p>4. Estate agents: mis-selling of property – As the estate agents usually carry professional indemnity insurance (with the exception of small agents), though not mandatory, such types of cases are worth consideration for inclusion under the extended scope of SLAS.</p>	<p>At present, these types of cases are covered under the Ordinary Legal Aid Scheme (OLAS). In 2009, one out of 7 closed cases was granted legal aid. No compensation was recovered despite the fact that the case was successful.</p>
<p>5. Claims arising from the sale of</p>	<p>These cases normally involve a</p>

Suggestions of the Bar Association on expansion of SLAS made on 20 July 2010	LAD's preliminary analysis
<p>new flats or offices for sale – As new flats are usually covered by contractors' all risk policy which covers beyond the duration of the certificate of completion to the defects liability period, there is usually a high success rate for these types of claims against the property developers. As such, it is suggested that these cases be included under the extended scope of SLAS.</p>	<p>buyer attempting to rescind a sale agreement for breach of the agreement on the part of the developer. According to past similar cases where legal aid was granted under the OLAS, the success rate for cases involving claims by a flat buyer against a property development company is very low and the median costs for litigation are high.</p>
<p>6. Claims against professional people (Professional negligence claims)</p>	<p>Under the current scope of SLAS, claims against professional negligence of lawyers, dentists and doctors are covered.</p> <p>In considering to extend the scope of SLAS to cover claims against negligence of other types of professionals, factors to consider include whether such professions are well and properly insured.</p>
<p>7. Small marine boat accidents</p>	<p>If such claims involve personal injuries, they are already covered under OLAS and SLAS.</p>
<p>8. Disputes relating to trusts</p>	<p>At present, we do not have much information on hand regarding this</p>

<p>Suggestions of the Bar Association on expansion of SLAS made on 20 July 2010</p>	<p>LAD's preliminary analysis</p>
	<p>type of cases. We welcome more detailed suggestions from relevant stakeholders in this aspect.</p>
<p>9. Companies disputes – minority shareholders rights</p>	<p>In general, these types of disputes do not involve money claims. We welcome more detailed suggestions from relevant stakeholders in this aspect.</p>
<p>10. Sales of goods and provision of services</p>	<p>In general, such claims involve small amounts of money, and the litigation costs involved usually far exceed the values of the damages.</p>
<p>11. Assistance to employees for recovery of wages and appeals relating to Labor Tribunal awards</p>	<p>At present, OLAS covers employee compensation cases. Applicants who pass the means and merits tests can obtain legal aid.</p> <p>If employers make an appeal against the judgment of the Labor Tribunal which are in favor of the employees, the employees can consider to apply for legal aid to defend the appeal.</p> <p>This type of cases has, from cases analyzed, a good success rate.</p>

**Legal Aid Department
November 2010**

**Relevant documents on issues relating to
the review of the scope of the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme**

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
Legislative Council	5 May 2004	Official Record of Proceedings of the Council on a written question raised by Dr Hon LO Wing-lok on "Legal aid applications relating to claims of medical negligence" http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr03-04/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0505ti-translate-e.pdf
Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services	23 January 2006	Background brief on "Provision of legal aid services" prepared by the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)904/05-06(01)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0123cb2-904-1e.pdf Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)1491/05-06] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/panels/ajls/minutes/aj060123.pdf
Legislative Council	3 May 2006	Official Record of Proceedings of the Council on the motion moved by the Chief Secretary for Administration on "Proposed resolution under the Legal Aid Ordinance" http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0503ti-translate-e.pdf
Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services	26 March 2007	Background brief on "Provision of legal aid services" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)1395/06-07(01)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0326cb2-1395-1-e.pdf Administration's paper on "Five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants" [LC Paper No. CB(2)1395/06-07(02)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0326cb2-1395-2-e.pdf

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
		<p>The Legal Aid Services Council's letter dated 26 March 2007 [LC Paper No. CB(2)1472/06-07(01)] (<i>Chinese version only</i>)</p> <p>Submission dated 26 March 2007 from the 1st Step Association [LC Paper No. CB(2)1472/06-07(02)] (<i>Chinese version only</i>)</p> <p>Information note from the LegCo Office of Hon Margaret NG [LC Paper No. CB(2)1472/06-07(03)] (<i>Chinese version only</i>)</p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)1966/06-07] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/p/panels/ajls/minutes/aj070326.pdf</p>
	26 May 2008	<p>Background Brief on "Five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)2010/07-08(01)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0526cb2-2010-1-e.pdf</p> <p>Administration's paper on "Five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants" [LC Paper No. CB(2)2011/07-08(04)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0526cb2-2011-4-e.pdf</p> <p>Submission dated 26 May 2008 from Law Society of Hong Kong [LC Paper No. CB(2)2090/07-08(01)] (<i>English version only</i>) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0623cb2-2090-1-e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)2818/07-08] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/p/panels/ajls/minutes/aj080526.pdf</p>

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
<p>Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services</p>	<p>24 November 2008</p>	<p>Information Note prepared by the Research and Library Services Division on "Scope and expenditure of legal aid services in selected places" [IN03/08-09] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/sec/library/0809in03-e.pdf</p> <p>Background Brief on "Review of the provision of legal aid services" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)309/08-09(07)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj1124cb2-309-7-e.pdf</p> <p>Administration's paper on "Provision of legal aid services" [LC Paper No. CB(2)309/08-09(08)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj1124cb2-309-8-e.pdf</p> <p>Submission from the Society for Community Organization on "Review of the provision of legal aid services" [LC Paper No. CB(2)335/08-09(01)] <i>(Chinese version only)</i></p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)584/08-09] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/ajls/minutes/aj20081124.pdf</p> <p><u>Follow-up paper</u></p> <p>Administration's response on review of the provision of legal aid services [LC Paper No. CB(2)2011/08-09(01)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj1124cb2-2011-1-e.pdf</p>
<p>Legislative Council</p>	<p>11 February 2009</p>	<p>Official Record of Proceedings of the Council on the motion moved by Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun on "Relaxing the eligibility criteria for legal aid" http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0211-translate-e.pdf</p>

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
<p>Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services</p>	<p>30 March 2009</p>	<p>Administration's paper on "Five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants" [LC Paper No. CB(2)1152/08-09(04)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0330cb2-1152-4-e.pdf</p> <p>Background brief on "Five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)1152/08-09(05)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0330cb2-1152-5-e.pdf</p> <p>Law Society of Hong Kong's letter dated 27 March 2009 [LC Paper No. CB(2)1215/08-09(01)] <i>(English version only)</i> http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0330cb2-1215-1-e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)1603/08-09] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/p/panels/ajls/minutes/aj20090330.pdf</p>
	<p>--</p>	<p>Research report on "Legal aid systems in selected places" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat (June 2009) [RP01/08-09] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/sec/library/0809rp01-e.pdf</p> <p>Supplementary information on income level, number of legal aid applications received and granted, and updated figures of legal aid expenditure in Hong Kong and the selected places prepared by the LegCo Secretariat (as at 22 March 2010) [IN01/09-10] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/sec/library/0910in01_20100322-e.pdf</p>

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
		<p>Supplementary table on client contributions, costs received and legal aid expenditure in Hong Kong and the selected places prepared by the LegCo Secretariat (as at 15 January 2010) [FS05/09-10] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/sec/library/0910fs05_20100115-e.pdf</p>
	22 October 2009	<p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)506/09-10] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/minutes/aj20091022.pdf</p>
Legislative Council	6 January 2010	<p>Official Record of Proceedings of the Council on a written question raised by Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun on "Five-yearly Review of Criteria for Assessing Financial Eligibility of Legal Aid Applicants" http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0106-translate-e.pdf</p>
Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services	29 March 2010	<p>Administration's paper on "Five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants" [LC Paper No. CB(2)1148/09-10(01)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0329cb2-1148-1-e.pdf</p> <p>Updated background brief on "Five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)1156/09-10(06)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0329cb2-1156-6-e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)1581/09-10] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/minutes/aj20100329.pdf</p>

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
		<p><u>Follow-up papers</u></p> <p>Submission from the Society for Community Organization [LC Paper No. CB(2)1192/09-10(01)] <i>(Chinese version only)</i></p> <p>Letter from the Chairman of the Legal Aid Services Council to the Administration which sets out the Council's views on the Administration's proposals arising from the recently completed Five-yearly Review of the Criteria for Assessing the Financial Eligibility of Legal Aid Applicants [LC Paper No. CB(2)1200/09-10(01)] <i>(English version only)</i> http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/chinese/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0329cb2-1200-1-ec.pdf</p> <p>Administration's paper on the basis for arriving at the proposed financial eligibility limits for the two legal aid schemes [LC Paper No. CB(2)1364/09-10(01)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0329cb2-1364-1-e.pdf</p>
	24 May 2010	<p>Updated background brief on "Five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)1583/09-10(04)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0524cb2-1583-4-e.pdf</p> <p>Submission from the Hong Kong Bar Association [LC Paper No. CB(2)1601/09-10(01)] <i>(English version only)</i> http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/chinese/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0524cb2-1601-1-ec.pdf</p>

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
		<p>Submission from the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions Rights & Benefits Committee [LC Paper No. CB(2)1600/09-10(01)] <i>(Chinese version only)</i> http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/chinese/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0524cb2-1600-1-ec.pdf</p> <p>Submission from Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor [LC Paper No. CB(2)1654/09-10(01)] <i>(English version only)</i> http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/chinese/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0524cb2-1654-1-ec.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(2)2134/09-10] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/p/panels/ajls/minutes/aj20100524.pdf</p>
	<p>21 July 2010</p>	<p>Paper provided by the Administration in response to issues raised by members at the meeting on 24 May 2010 concerning the five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants [LC Paper No. CB(2)2076/09-10(01)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0721cb2-2076-1-e.pdf</p> <p>Updated background brief on "Five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)2081/09-10(01)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0721cb2-2081-1-e.pdf</p> <p>Submission from the Hong Kong Bar Association [LC Paper No. CB(2)2105/09-10(01)] <i>(English version only)</i> http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/chinese/p/panels/ajls/papers/aj0721cb2-2105-1-ec.pdf</p>

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
		<p>Submission from the Law Society of Hong Kong [LC Paper No. CB(2)2103/09-10(01)] <i>(English version only)</i> http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/chinese/panels/ajls/papers/aj0721cb2-2103-1-ec.pdf</p> <p>Submission from the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions Rights & Benefits Committee [LC Paper No. CB(2)2105/09-10(02)] <i>(Chinese version only)</i> http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/chinese/panels/ajls/papers/aj0721cb2-2105-2-ec.pdf</p> <p>Submission from the Federation of Hong Kong and Kowloon Labour Unions [LC Paper No. CB(2)2099/09-10(01)] <i>(Chinese version only)</i> http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/chinese/panels/ajls/papers/aj0721cb2-2099-1-ec.pdf</p>
	<p>30 September 2010</p>	<p>Paper provided by the Administration on "Five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants" [LC Paper No. CB(2)2298/09-10(01)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0930cb2-2298-1-e.pdf</p> <p>Updated background brief on "Five-yearly review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)2304/09-10(01)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ajls/papers/aj0930cb2-2304-1-e.pdf</p> <p>Submission from the Hong Kong Bar Association [LC Paper No. CB(2)2327/09-10(01)] <i>(English version only)</i> http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/chinese/panels/ajls/papers/aj0930cb2-2327-1-ec.pdf</p>

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
		<p>Submission from the Law Society of Hong Kong [LC Paper No. CB(2)2329/09-10(01)] <i>(English version only)</i> http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/chinese/papers/ajls/papers/aj0930cb2-2329-1-ec.pdf</p>
	22 October 2010	<p>Paper provided by the Administration on the new policy initiatives concerning legal aid under the Home Affairs Bureau [LC Paper No. CB(2)36/10-11(02)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/papers/ajls/papers/aj1022cb2-36-2-e.pdf</p>
	22 November 2010	<p>Administration's paper on "Progress of review of the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme" [LC Paper No. CB(2)315/10-11(05)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/papers/ajls/papers/aj1122cb2-315-5-e.pdf</p> <p>Background brief on "Progress of review of the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2)315/10-11(06)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/papers/ajls/papers/aj1122cb2-315-6-e.pdf</p> <p>Submission from the Hong Kong Bar Association [LC Paper No. CB(2)357/10-11(01)] <i>(English version only)</i> http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/chinese/papers/ajls/papers/aj1122cb2-357-1-ec.pdf</p> <p><u>Follow-up paper</u></p> <p>Judiciary Administration's response on "Statistics on unrepresented litigants" [LC Paper No. CB(2)571/10-11(01)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/papers/ajls/papers/aj1122cb2-571-1-e.pdf</p>