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本司檔案 Our Ref: SJO 5012/3/3C  
來函檔案 Your Ref:  
電話號碼 Tel. No.: 2867 2165  
傳真號碼 Fax No.: 3579 2431

LC Paper No. CB(4)122/14-15(01)

6 November 2014

Miss Mary SO  
Clerk to Panel on Administration of  
Justice and Legal Services  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

**By E-mail**  
([mso@legco.gov.hk](mailto:mso@legco.gov.hk))

Dear Miss SO,

### **Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services**

#### **Follow-up to meeting on 22 July 2014**

At the meeting of the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services on 22 July 2014, Members discussed the item of "Development of mediation services in Hong Kong" and asked the Department of Justice to provide additional information in three areas. This letter sets out the additional information requested for each of these three areas.

#### **(a) Number of applications for mediation services in respect of disputes relating to consumers in 2013**

In the light of the Panel's request, we have enquired, for example, the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre and the Hong Kong Mediation Centre, and understand that both institutions do not keep separate statistics on the use of mediation for consumer disputes. We have also approached the Joint Mediation Helpline Office ("JMHO"). Whilst the JMHO has kept statistics on the number of applications for mediation services under the category "Goods & Services", there was no application for mediation services under this category in 2013.

**(b) Amount of money and time spent by parties to mediation through which the disputes concerned were successfully resolved**

The Judiciary has provided in its website some handy statistics from 2011 to 2013 on "average time spent on mediation per case" and "average cost of mediation per case", in respect of mediated cases (with full or partial agreement) which had been commenced before the Court of First Instance and the District Court respectively. The relevant statistics are set out in **Annex A**.

**(c) Statistics of mediators accredited by the Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited ("HKMAAL") grouped by professional backgrounds**

The relevant statistics provided by the HKMAAL are set out at **Annex B**. As shown by the statistics, mediators accredited by HKMAAL have a diverse background and come from different professions, for example, accountancy, architecture, legal, medical, social work, etc.. The percentage of mediators coming from the legal profession (i.e. mediators under the categories of "Judges", "Barristers" and "Solicitors") constitutes about 42% of all HKMAAL's accredited mediators.

Yours sincerely,



( Howard Lee )

Administrative Assistant  
to Secretary for Justice

c.c. LO (C)

**Average Costs of Mediated Cases  
(with Full or Partial Agreement)**

<b>Court of First Instance</b>		
<u>Year</u>	<u>Full Agreement</u>	<u>Partial Agreement</u>
2011	\$17,000 per case (144 cases)	\$30,100 per case (15 cases)
2012	\$18,200 per case (212 cases)	\$19,500 per case (5 cases)
2013	\$17,300 per case (281 cases)	\$23,500 per case (5 cases)

*Source : Judiciary*

<b>District Court</b>		
<u>Year</u>	<u>Full Agreement</u>	<u>Partial Agreement</u>
2011	\$14,300 per case (120 cases)	\$23,800 per case (4 cases)
2012	\$13,100 per case (141 cases)	\$11,700 per case (6 cases)
2013	\$13,800 per case (181 cases)	\$17,400 per case (5 cases)

*Source : Judiciary*

**Average Time Spent on Mediated Cases  
(with Full or Partial Agreement)**

<b>Court of First Instance</b>		
<u>Year</u>	<u>Full Agreement</u>	<u>Partial Agreement</u>
2011	5 hours per case (144 cases)	9 hours per case (15 cases)
2012	6 hours per case (212 cases)	4 hours per case (5 cases)
2013	5 hours per case (281 cases)	7 hours per case (5 cases)

*Source : Judiciary*

<b>District Court</b>		
<u>Year</u>	<u>Full Agreement</u>	<u>Partial Agreement</u>
2011	6 hours per case (120 cases)	6 hours per case (4 cases)
2012	5 hours per case (141 cases)	3 hours per case (6 cases)
2013	5 hours per case (181 cases)	5 hours per case (5 cases)

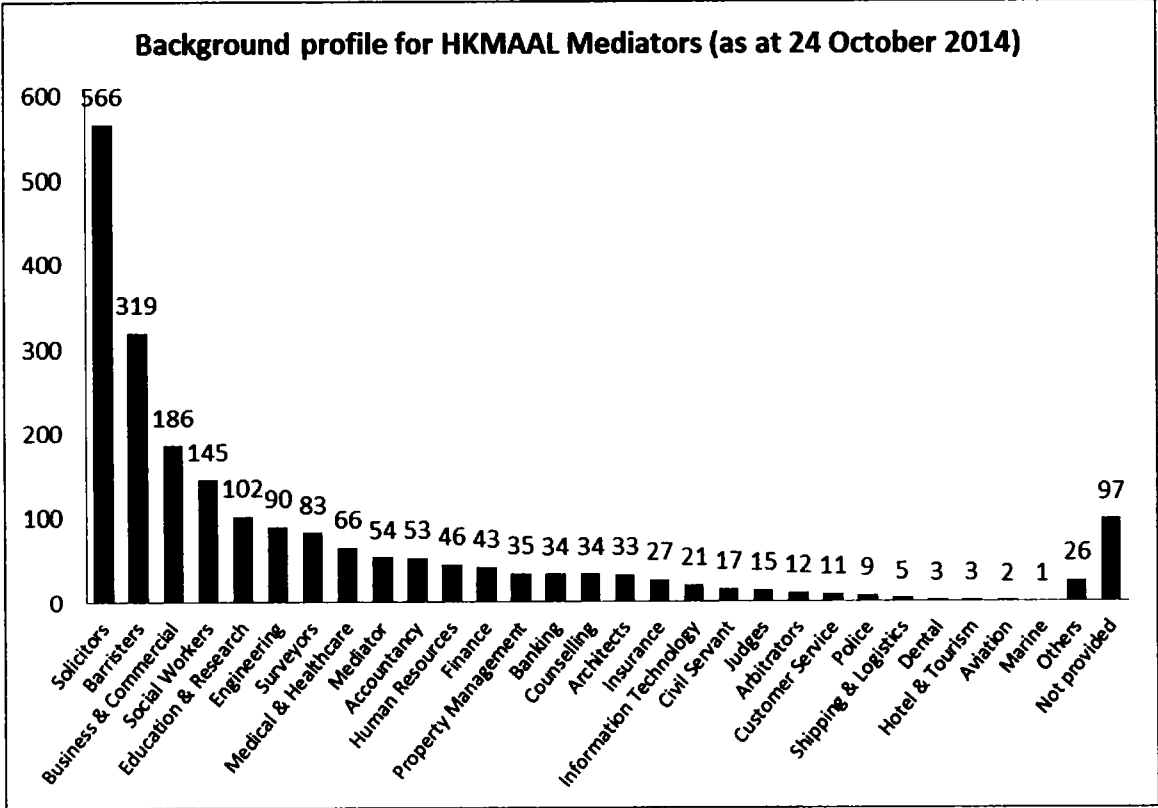
*Source : Judiciary*

## Annex B

### **Breakdown of mediators accredited by the HKMAAL grouped by professional backgrounds (as at 24 October 2014)**

<u>Categories</u>	<u>Number of Mediators</u>
Accountancy	53
Arbitrators	12
Architects	33
Aviation	2
Banking	34
Barristers	319
Business & Commercial	186
Civil Servant	17
Counselling	34
Customer Service	11
Dental	3
Education & Research	102
Engineering	90
Finance	43
Hotel & Tourism	3
Human Resources	46
Information Technology	21
Insurance	27
Judges	15
Marine	1
Mediators	54
Medical & Healthcare	66
Police	9
Property Management	35
Shipping & Logistics	5
Social Workers	145
Solicitors	566
Surveyors	83
Others	26
Not provided	97
<b>Total</b>	<b>2138</b>

The above data is also shown in the column chart as below:



Total no. of mediators: 2,138