

**Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services
Supplementary Information
on Judicial Service Pay Adjustment**

- (a) A breakdown by the types of previous legal practice of the 27 new appointees who joined the Judiciary from the outside

The last round of recruitment exercises was completed in the latter half of 2012. As at 31.3.2013*, 45 appointees had assumed judicial office, including 27 who joined from outside. Amongst those 27 appointees, 23 were barristers and 4 were solicitors.

(* Position as at 31.3.2013, as shown in the Judicial Committee's Report on Judicial Remuneration Review 2013).

- (b) Details including the rates of the Non-accountable Cash Allowance for judges and judicial officers

The Non-accountable Cash Allowance ("NCA") was approved by the Legislative Council Finance Committee on 9 August 1991 as the housing benefit for Judges and Judicial Officers ("JJOs") at District Judge level and above. The NCA is a cash supplement in lieu of housing benefits designed to boost the localization of the Judiciary; and it has no time limit and is payable to eligible JJOs throughout their tenure of office.

The rates of NCA are the same as those for the Home Financing Allowance ("HFA") within the civil service and are subject to regular review in line with any revisions to the rates of the HFA.

The current rates of NCA are as follows –

Rank	NCA Rate (per month)
Chief Justice, Court of Final Appeal Permanent Judge, Court of Final Appeal Chief Judge of the High Court Justice of Appeal of the Court of Appeal of the High Court Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court	\$45,800

Rank	NCA Rate (per month)
Registrar, High Court Senior Deputy Registrar, High Court Deputy Registrar, High Court Chief District Judge Principal Family Court Judge District Judge Chief Magistrate	\$34,350

(c) Whether there is any "double pension" arrangement for judges, and if so, the relevant details.

Section 25 of the Pension Benefits (Judicial Officers) Ordinance, Cap. 401 (Cap. 401) provides that "An officer's pensionable service shall be deemed to be increased by one month for each completed month of pensionable service in a judicial office that is both after age 50 and after 1 July 1987."

Accordingly, a JJO will enjoy a pension enhancement at double the normal rate for pensionable service after the age of 50. This is to recognize the fact that JJOs are normally appointed later in life and are unable either to ensure a long career or earn a satisfactory pension. In order to attract high quality legal practitioners to join the Judiciary, the pension enhancement was introduced when Cap. 401 was enacted in 1988.

Ends