

**Subcommittee on Practising Certificate (Solicitors) (Amendment)
Rules 2018**

**Follow-up actions required of The Law Society of Hong Kong
(as at 4 June 2018)**

The Law Society of Hong Kong ("Law Society") was requested by members at the meeting on 29 May 2018 to provide the following information –

- (a) in relation to the comments made by the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training ("SCLET") on the Law Society's consultation exercise on the Common Entrance Examination ("CEE") undertaken by a research team appointed by the Law Society comprising academics from Nottingham Law School, the Australian National University and the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (University of London, UK) ("the CEE Consultation")¹:
 - (i) the cost incurred for the CEE Consultation;
 - (ii) the reasons for not releasing the findings of the CEE Consultation to the public, relevant stakeholders and, in particular, members of the Law Society whose fees for the practicing certificates have been used for funding the CEE Consultation;
 - (iii) the reasons for declining SCLET's request for sharing the findings of the CEE Consultation with them;
 - (iv) whether and when the Law Society has consulted its members on CEE, and the factors for deciding whether to consult members; and
 - (v) the projected administrative costs for conducting CEE, in view of its possible impact on the financial vigor of the Law Society and hence the fees for practicing certificates to be collected.

¹ Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training's Comprehensive Review of Legal Education and Training in Hong Kong – Final Report of the Consultants (April 2018) (<http://www.sclet.gov.hk/eng/pdf/final2018.pdf>) s.6.2.2

- (b) In respect of the Law Society's plan to establish the Law Society Examination ("LSE")²,
- (i) whether the decision to establish LSE has been made;
 - (ii) the relationship between CEE and LSE;
 - (iii) the detailed examination arrangements for LSE;
 - (iv) projected number of candidates who will sit for LSE;
 - (v) estimated passing rates of candidates who sit for LSE;
 - (vi) whether and when a consultation exercise on LSE will be conducted; and
 - (vii) the projected administrative costs for conducting LSE, in view of its possible impact on the financial vigor of the Law Society and hence the fees for practicing certificates to be collected.
- (c) Information on the projection of the demand of solicitors in Hong Kong in the future, and the details of such projection (if any).

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
4 June 2018

² The Law Society's paper entitled "Responses to Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training Consultants regarding unified law school and the Common Entrance Examination and other recommendations"
(http://www.sclet.gov.hk/eng/pdf/lawsociety_20180508.pdf) paragraphs 29 and 32.