

公道自在民心 The Civic Way, the Fairer Way

Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun Chairman of the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services Legislative Council

27 April 2020

Madam Chairman,

RE: Reform of the current system to determine whether an offence is to be tried by judge and jury or by judge alone

In the meetings on 28 June 2010, 22 April 2014 and 22 June 2015, this Panel discussed "Reform of the current system to determine whether an offence is to be tried by judge and jury or by judge alone". In the meetings, members expressed support for exploring the possibility of introducing jury trials to the District Court. At the end of the discussion of the matter in the meeting on 22 June 2015, the Chairman concluded the Panel would continue to follow up the reform of the current system to determine whether an offence was to be tried by judge and jury or by judge alone.

We would like to request a meeting in the Panel to follow up on this matter, especially considering that the new District Court Complex pending construction may address the additional accommodation requirements that would arise from the extension of jury trials to the District Court. As the matter has been discussed thrice before with general support from the members and the legal profession, and that it will impact on the layout of the new District Court Complex, we ask that the meeting be held as soon as practicable.

Yours sincerely,

Dennis Kwok

(Deputy Chairman)

Alvin Yeung

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