



立法會
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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Urgent

21 February 2020

Miss Emma LAU, JP
Judiciary Administrator
Judiciary
G/F, High Court Building
38 Queensway, Hong Kong

Dear Ms LAU,

Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services

General adjournment of court hearings

It is noted that in view of public health considerations, all hearings of the courts/tribunals originally scheduled from 29 January to 23 February 2020 have been adjourned, except urgent and essential hearings/matters. It is also noted that the new coronavirus infection is still serious and the general adjournment of court hearings may extend further.

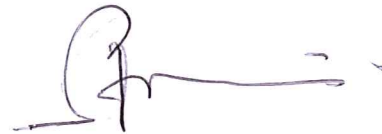
While we understand and support the Judiciary for taking measures to safeguard health and safety of all parties involved in hearings and the operation of the courts/tribunals, the prolonged adjournment of court hearings in general has inevitably affected the access to justice for parties and applicants.

It is against this background that I as Chairman as well as Hon Dennis KWOK Wing-hang, Deputy Chairman of the Panel, have both raised the item "General adjournment of court hearings" for discussion at the meeting of the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services on 24 February 2020. As you are aware, the meeting has now been rescheduled to a later date on consideration of the latest situation of the novel coronavirus infection.

In view of the great concerns expressed by members as well as legal practitioners over the possible impacts of the general adjournment of court hearings, I should be grateful if the Judiciary Administration would provide a written response, in bilingual form, detailing the various measures it plans to be taken to alleviate the impacts to members of the public and the administration of justice in general.

You may wish to contact the Clerk to Panel, Mr Lemuel WOO (email: yfwoo@legco.gov.hk), for follow-up to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Priscilla Leung Mei-fun', written in a cursive style.

(Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun)
Chairman

c.c. Deputy Chairman and members of Panel on Administration of Justice
and Legal Services