

香港特別行政區政府
政務司司長辦公室轄下行政署



The Government of
The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Administration Wing,
Chief Secretary for Administration's Office

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By email

11 March 2021

Mr Lemuel WOO
Clerk to Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr WOO,

**Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services
Follow-up Actions arising from Meeting of 1 March 2021**

At the meeting of the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services held on 1 March 2021, Members requested the Legal Aid Department ("LAD") to provide information on the numbers of legal aid cases assigned to the top 20 solicitors and counsel, who received the highest number of legal aid assignments for civil and criminal cases respectively, in each of the past 5 years. The information is set out at **Annex**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irene', written over a horizontal line.

(Irene CHEUNG)
for Director of Administration

c.c. Director of Legal Aid (Attn: Mr Chris CHONG)

Annex

Civil Legal Aid Cases

Rank	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Solicitor	Counsel	Solicitor	Counsel	Solicitor	Counsel	Solicitor	Counsel	Solicitor	Counsel
1	43	28	43	26	38	18	35	17	35	19
2	42	28	42	25	37	18	35	17	34	19
3	41	25	42	25	37	17	34	17	34	19
4	40	25	41	24	37	16	34	17	34	17
5	40	25	41	24	35	16	33	15	33	17
6	40	25	41	23	35	15	33	15	32	16
7	40	25	41	23	33	15	33	15	31	15
8	40	25	40	23	33	15	33	15	31	15
9	40	24	40	23	33	15	32	15	31	15
10	39	23	39	22	33	15	32	15	30	15
11	39	22	39	22	33	15	32	15	30	15
12	39	22	38	21	32	15	31	15	30	15
13	39	22	38	21	32	15	31	15	30	15
14	39	22	38	21	32	15	31	14	30	15
15	38	21	38	19	32	15	30	14	29	15
16	38	21	37	19	31	15	30	14	29	14
17	38	21	37	18	31	15	30	14	29	14
18	38	21	37	18	31	15	29	14	29	14
19	37	21	37	18	30	15	29	14	29	13
20	37	21	36	18	30	14	29	14	28	13

Before 2018, the assignment limits for solicitors and counsel in civil legal aid cases were 45 and 25 respectively. Since 2018, the assignment limits for solicitors and counsel in civil legal aid cases have been adjusted to 35 and 20 respectively.

+ The LAD may, in the aided persons' interest, assign connected cases, cases where the assigned lawyer has acted for aided person before grant of legal aid, cases involving multiple parties, or cases requiring specialized knowledge or skills in a particular area of law to the same solicitor or

counsel for handling even though that solicitor or counsel is close to or has exceeded the assignment limit at that moment.

Criminal Legal Aid Cases

Rank	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Solicitor	Counsel	Solicitor	Counsel	Solicitor	Counsel	Solicitor	Counsel	Solicitor	Counsel
1	31	23	27	32	34	27	25	30	33	34
2	30	23	26	29	25	27	22	28	33	32
3	27	20	25	27	23	26	22	27	30	32
4	19	19	24	27	23	26	21	26	29	32
5	17	18	22	24	23	24	20	25	27	31
6	17	17	21	23	20	23	19	25	26	30
7	15	17	19	22	20	23	19	24	25	29
8	15	16	19	22	20	21	19	24	25	27
9	15	16	19	21	19	19	19	22	25	27
10	15	16	18	20	18	19	18	21	25	26
11	14	16	18	20	18	19	18	21	24	26
12	14	15	18	17	18	19	18	20	24	25
13	14	15	18	17	18	19	18	20	23	25
14	14	14	17	17	17	18	17	20	23	25
15	14	14	17	16	17	17	17	19	23	25
16	14	14	17	16	16	17	17	19	22	25
17	13	14	16	16	16	17	17	18	22	25
18	13	14	16	16	16	17	16	18	22	25
19	13	14	16	15	16	17	16	18	22	24
20	13	13	16	15	16	17	16	18	21	24

* Before 2018, the assignment limit for both solicitors and counsel in criminal legal aid cases was 30. Since 2018, the assignment limit for both solicitors and counsel in criminal cases has been adjusted to 25.

^ The LAD may, in the interest of justice, assign connected cases, cases where the assigned lawyer has acted for aided person before grant of legal aid, cases involving multiple defendants, cases requiring specialized knowledge or skills in a particular area of law etc to the

same solicitor or counsel for handling even though that solicitor or counsel is close to or has exceeded the assignment limit at that moment. Some of the cases above involved the assignment of the same counsel for the same defendant at different stages of the proceedings. For instance, panel lawyers who have handled the committal case and subsequently the High Court case involving the same defendant are considered to be assigned twice.