

Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services**List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 19 May 2023)****Proposed
timing for
discussion****1. Mainland and overseas visits conducted by the Department of Justice in the first half of 2023**

Proposed by the Department of Justice (“DoJ”). The Administration will brief members on the Mainland and overseas visits of DoJ conducted in first half of 2023 to promote Hong Kong’s legal and dispute resolution services and tell the good stories of Hong Kong, and the achievements of the visits.

26 Jun 2023

2. Briefing on initiatives of the Department of Justice to promote rule of law on all fronts

Proposed by DoJ. The Administration will brief members on the policy initiative of the DoJ regarding the promotion of rule of law on all fronts, including the latest progress of the implementation of the policy initiatives under the 2022 Policy Address to strengthen rule of law education, and other related promotion work on rule of law.

26 Jun 2023

3. Law Reform Commission Secretariat – Progress on the Systematic Review of Statutory Laws of Hong Kong

Proposed by DoJ. The Law Reform Commission (“LRC”) Secretariat continues to undertake the Systematic Review of the Statutory Laws of Hong Kong it has embarked upon, and is actively coordinating and liaising with various bureaux and departments to assist and facilitate the relevant authorities in reviewing the laws under their policy and work purview in three primary areas (namely adaptation of laws, repeal of obsolete laws and consolidation of laws) in order that the responsible bureau may make proposals for legislative amendments timeously. The Panel will update members on the latest progress.

Jul 2023

**Proposed
timing for
discussion**

4. Implementation of the Judiciary's information technology infrastructure and technology related initiatives in the District Court Building at Caroline Hill Road

Proposed by the Judiciary Administration ("Jud Adm"). Jud Adm will consult the Panel on the implementation of the Judiciary's information technology ("IT") infrastructure in the District Court Building ("DCB") at Caroline Hill Road, and to equip the courtrooms and Judiciary offices in the DCB with appropriate IT and audio-visual facilities. These initiatives aim to support the daily operations of the District Court, Family Court and Lands Tribunal.

Q3/Q4 2023

5. Progress on strengthening the promotion of Hong Kong's legal and dispute resolution services

Proposed by DoJ. The Administration will brief members on the implementation progress of the policy initiative of the Department of Justice under the 2022 Policy Address regarding strengthening the promotion of Hong Kong's legal and dispute resolution services.

Q3/Q4 2023

At the Panel meeting on 25 January 2022, Hon YUNG Hoi-yan suggested that DoJ should provide updated information on the mediation initiatives of the Administration, in particular the development of community mediation services and the role of the West Kowloon Mediation Centre in promoting such services.

6. Technological advancement in the judicial process

Proposed by Hon Maggie CHAN and Hon LAM San-keung at the Panel meeting on 25 January 2022. Ms CHAN requested Jud Adm to brief the Panel on the latest position of application of technology in courts and the related improvement measures. Mr LAM was concerned about the slow progress made in applying technology in court over the years, despite the enactment of the Court Proceedings (Electronic Technology) Ordinance (Cap. 638) in 2021. At the Panel meeting on 17 January 2023, members urged for confirmation of a meeting date for the discussion of this item at a Panel meeting.

Q3/Q4 2023

At the Panel meeting on 3 May 2023, members noted Hon LAM San-keung's letter to the Chairman dated 21 March 2023 (LC Paper No. CB(4)352/2023(01)) (Chinese version only) in which Mr LAM was concerned about the slow progress of implementing electronic filing system in courts. Members agreed to discuss Mr LAM's suggested issue under this item.

7. Updates on cooperation with international legal and dispute resolution bodies and attracting their presence or carrying out of activities in Hong Kong

Proposed by DoJ. The Administration will brief members on the recent updates on its cooperation with international legal and dispute resolution bodies, and the relevant policy initiatives in attracting them to establish presence or carry out activities in Hong Kong.

Q4 2023

8. Progress on facilitating the legal co-operation and convergence of legal practices within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

Proposed by DoJ. The Administration will brief members on the implementation progress of its policy initiative under the 2022 Policy Address regarding facilitating the legal co-operation and convergence of legal practices within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

Q4 2023

At the Panel meeting on 17 January 2023, members urged for confirmation of a meeting date for the discussion of this item at a Panel meeting.

9. Subsidiary legislation relating to Stage 2 of Phase I of the Information Technology Strategy Plan

Proposed by Jud Adm. Jud Adm will consult the Panel on the subsidiary legislation related to Stage 2 of Phase I of the Information Technology Strategy Plan. The subsidiary legislation aims to regulate or prescribe the practice and procedure for the use of electronic technology in Stage 2 e-Courts.

Q4 2023

10. Development of and support for the Hong Kong legal profession

At the Panel meeting on 25 January 2022, members suggested that DoJ should brief members about its measures/plans to foster the development of Hong Kong legal profession in the Greater Bay Area and the cooperation between the legal professions in both places. DoJ should also brief members on its measures to assist the small and medium sized law firms, which accounted for a great majority of the law firms in Hong Kong, affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q4 2023

At the Panel meeting on 17 January 2023, members urged for confirmation of a meeting date for the discussion of this item at a Panel meeting.

11. Progress on implementation of “Vision 2030 for Rule of Law”

Proposed by DoJ. The Administration will update members on the progress of various projects and activities under “Vision 2030 for Rule of Law”. At the Panel meeting on 25 January 2022, Hon LAM San-keung suggested that secondary school students should be cultivated with a correct concept of rule of law with a view to nurturing interests among those talented students to pursue a legal career in the future.

To be confirmed

12. LRC Report on Class Actions

Pursuant to Hon Holden CHOW's proposal to discuss the work progress of introducing a class action regime in Hong Kong (LC Paper No. CB(4)255/17-18(01)), members agreed at the Panel meeting on 27 November 2017 that the issue be included in the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion.

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At the Panel meeting on 17 January 2023, members urged for confirmation of a meeting date for the discussion of this item at a Panel meeting.

13. Trainings for judges, judicial officers and legal officers

At the Panel meeting on 25 January 2022, Hon Maggie CHAN, Hon Holden CHOW and Hon Carmen KAN expressed concerns about the trainings provided to judges and judicial officers ("JJOs"), and legal officers on the Constitution of the People's Republic of China ("the Constitution"), the Basic Law and the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("NSL").

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Mr CHOW suggested inviting Jud Adm to update members on the latest progress of the provision of relevant trainings to JJOs. Ms KAN was concerned whether, for judges designated to handle cases concerning offence endangering national security, the trainings could provide an accurate understanding of NSL for making judgments on such cases. Ms CHAN was concerned whether knowledge in the above subjects would be among the entry requirements in the recruitment of JJOs and legal officers as well as the criteria for performance evaluation and consideration of promotion.

At the Panel meeting on 17 January 2023, members urged for confirmation of a meeting date for the discussion of this item at a Panel meeting.

14. The Secretary for Justice's role as protector of charities

Proposed by Hon Paul TSE at the Panel meeting on 25 January 2022. In relation to formulating a scheme for utilizing the estate of the late Mrs Nina WANG for charitable purposes, which has been outstanding since the relevant Court of Final Appeal judgment was handed down in 2015, Mr TSE requested DoJ to brief members on the Secretary for Justice's role as protector of charities in relation to charitable interests in trusts and estates, in particular where major public interests are involved.

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15. Legal education and training in Hong Kong

At the Panel meeting on 25 January 2022, Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG suggested the Panel to discuss the proposal of introducing a public examination, as an alternative to the Post-graduate Certificate in Laws, which could lead to legal professional qualifications.

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At the Panel meeting on 17 January 2023, members urged for confirmation of a meeting date for the discussion of this item at a Panel meeting.

16. Implementation of LRC Report on Enduring Powers of Attorney: Personal Care – Continuing Powers of Attorney Bill

On 28 December 2017, the Administration launched a consultation on the proposed Continuing Powers of Attorney Bill ("the proposed Bill") and briefed the Panel on the proposed Bill at its meeting on 22 January 2018. The proposed Bill seeks to implement the Law Reform Commissions of Hong Kong's Report on Enduring Powers of Attorney: Personal Care. The consultation period ended on 28 April 2018. The Administration is now considering the responses received and will take them into account in refining the Bill. The Administration will brief the Panel on the result of the consultation as well as the proposed way forward on a date to be advised.

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At the Panel meeting on 17 January 2023, members urged for confirmation of a meeting date for the discussion of this item at a Panel meeting.

17. Long time taken for fixing the trial dates and disposal of court cases

Proposed by Hon LAM San-keung. In his letter to the Chairman on 21 March 2023 (LC Paper No. CB(4)352/2023(01))(Chinese version only), Mr LAM raised that the long time taken for fixing the trial dates and the disposal of court cases was one of the legal sector's major concerns as reflected in a survey conducted by him recently. At the Panel meeting on 3 May 2023, members agreed with Mr LAM's suggestion of discussing the item at a future meeting.

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Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
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