

**Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services**

**List of follow-up actions**

(position as at 22 November 2012)

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Follow-up actions required</b>	<b>Administration's response</b>
1. Progress of review of Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme ("SLAS")	22 November 2010, 28 March 2011, 20 December 2011 and 10 July 2012	The Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") to provide a progress report on the work of the Administration in taking forward the legislative proposals for expansion of SLAS and the proposal of including derivative claims under the Ordinary Legal Aid Scheme ("OLAS").	<p>The Resolution to expand the scope of OLAS and SLAS was passed by the Council on 17 July 2012 pursuant to a motion moved by the Secretary to Home Affairs to amend Schedules 2 and 3 to the Legal Aid Ordinance (Cap. 91).</p> <p>In consequence of the passage of the Resolution, the Legal Aid (Amendment) Regulation 2012 and the Legal Aid (Assessment of Resources and Contributions) (Amendment) Regulation 2012 to raise the application fee and rates of contribution under the expanded SLAS was gazetted on 5 October 2012 for coming into operation on 30 November 2012. By the gazettal of the Legal Aid Ordinance - Resolution of the Legislative Council (Commencement) Notice also on 5 October 2012, the Resolution to expand the scope of OLAS and SLAS will also come into operation on 30 November 2012.</p> <p>A subcommittee formed by the House Committee of the Legislative Council to study</p>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up actions required	Administration's response
			<p>the two Amendment Regulations and the Commencement Notice has completed its work. The subcommittee supports the subsidiary legislation and does not propose any amendment to the subsidiary legislation. The Administration is however requested to review the rates of final contribution under the expanded SLAS after acquiring experience.</p> <p>The Administration will seek the approval from the Finance Committee ("FC") to inject \$100 million into the Supplementary Legal Aid Fund in December 2012.</p>
2. Solicitor Corporations Rules	28 March 2011	The Law Society of Hong Kong to clarify as a matter of policy whether a solicitor corporation would be allowed to join a partnership.	Response awaited.
3. A two-year pilot scheme to provide legal advice for litigants in person	27 February 2012	HAB to provide information relating to implementation details of the pilot scheme when being finalized in the second quarter of 2012.	<p>A Steering Committee has been established to advise the Administration on the launching of the pilot scheme.</p> <p>The Administration will provide further information on the details of the pilot scheme for the Panel's reference.</p>

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Follow-up actions required</b>	<b>Administration's response</b>
4. Setting up of Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited ("HKMAAL")	25 April 2012 Bills Committee on Mediation Bill	The Administration to elaborate further on the setting up of HKMAAL and the timetable for its establishment during the resumption of the Second Reading debate on the Mediation Bill.	The Secretary for Justice ("SJ") had provided an update in his speech at the resumption of the Second Reading debate on the Mediation Bill on 15 June 2012. Progress report to be provided in due course.
5. Law Reform Commission Report on Class Actions	10 July 2012	SJ to accord priority to the proposed class action regime in the policy agenda of the fourth-term Government.	Response awaited.
6. 2012-2013 judicial service pay adjustment	30 October 2012	The Administration to provide in its funding proposal to FC supplementary information concerning remuneration arrangements for judges and judicial officers and senior government officials in overseas jurisdictions; statistics on extension of service of judges; the number and percentage of civil and criminal cases involving unrepresented litigants; and the average time spent by the courts on adjudicating civil and criminal cases involving unrepresented litigants vis-à-vis that spent by the courts on adjudicating such cases involving represented litigants.	The requested information is provided at Enclosure 2 to the Administration's paper for the FC meeting on 16 November 2012 (FCR(2012-13)56)).

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Follow-up actions required</b>	<b>Administration's response</b>
		The Administration is to also provide in its funding proposal to FC information on why court waiting times have become increasingly longer and whether there are any measures to tackle the problem.	

Council Business Division 4  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
22 November 2012