

**Legal Aid Services Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 4 June 2019**  
**at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Office**

PRESENT

Dr Eric LI Ka Cheung, GBS, JP	Chairman
Mr Nicholas CHAN, MH	Member
Mr Warren GANESH	“
Mrs Ayesha LAU, JP	“
Mr Clarence LEUNG, JP	“
Mr Timothy PARKER	“
Mr Randy SHEK	“
Ms Connie WONG, SBS, JP	“
Mr Thomas KWONG, JP	Director of Legal Aid
Ms Helen PANG	Secretary

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Chris CHONG, JP	Deputy Director of Legal Aid (Policy & Administration)
Mr Paul LI	EO/LASC

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

Miss Iris WAN	Member
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**Item**

**Action By**

**(I) INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman welcomed Members and Mr Chris CHONG of the Legal Aid Department (LAD) to the meeting.

**(IV) PAPERS FOR INFORMATION/COMMENT**

**(B) Chief Secretary for Administration's Office's paper on "Annual Review of Financial Eligibility Limits of Legal Aid Applicants" - Paper No. LASC I/P 14/19**

4.1 The Chairman briefed Members that the paper was a submission to the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services of the Legislative Council (LegCo), in which it set out the Government's proposal to adjust upward the financial eligibility limits (FELs) of legal aid applicants in accordance with the changes in the Consumer Price Index (C). It was a very straightforward adjustment and was made following the established mechanism.

4.2 Mrs Ayesha LAU asked if there was any periodic review of the FELs. The Chairman said that in previous meetings the Council had suggested the Government to conduct a comprehensive review on a regular basis, but they had not committed though agreeing to conduct one when it was considered necessary. Therefore, the Council would keep reminding the Government and call for a review when there was a major change in circumstances.

4.3 Mrs Ayesha LAU then enquired whether an applicant's overseas assets would be included when LAD assessed his financial eligibility for legal aid. DLA replied that all assets including those overseas, such as shares and rental properties, would be included.

4.4 Members had no further question and took note of the paper.

**(C) Legal Aid Department's replies to questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2019-2020 – Paper No. LASC I/P 15/19**

5.1 The Chairman briefed Members that the paper set out the questions raised by LegCo members in relation to legal aid when examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2019-2020, and the relevant

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replies of LAD. Most of the questions were to seek information, some of which could also be obtained from the LAD's website.

5.2 Members had no particular comment and took note of the paper.

**(H) Monthly Statement of Income and Expenditure of LASC for the Months of March and April 2019 - Paper No. LASC I/P 20/19**

10.1 The Chairman said that the expenditure of the Council was within budget. There was only a slight surplus for 2018-2019 but the Council had a contingency reserve of about \$1 million in its accounts.

10.2 The Secretary reported that the Council's accounts for 2018-2019 would be audited in July or August 2019.

10.3 Members had no specific comment and took note of the Monthly Statements.

**(VI) DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

12. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The next Council Meeting would be held on Tuesday, 6 August 2019.