

**Legal Aid Services Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on
Tuesday, 7 June 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**

PRESENT

Prof. William LEUNG, SBS, JP	Chairman
Mr Nicholas CHAN, MH, JP	Member
Ms Karen LAM	“
Ms Rosita LEE	“
Mr Timothy PARKER	“
Mr Randy SHEK	“
Miss Iris WAN	“
Mr Chris CHONG, JP	Director of Legal Aid
Mr Patrick WONG	Secretary

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Steve WONG, JP	Deputy Director of Legal Aid (Policy & Administration)
Mr Henry CHAN	EO/LASC

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

Mrs Ayesha LAU, BBS, JP	Member
Ms Serena LAU, JP	“



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(I) INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Chairman welcomed Members and Mr Steve WONG of the Legal Aid Department (LAD) to the meeting.

1.2 The Chairman said that in view of the adverse weather forecasted today, the meeting arrangement was changed to a mixed mode and all Members present joined the meeting by means of teleconference. He also thanked Ms Rosita LEE for joining the meeting via WhatsApp call from oversea. As Members did not raise any concern over the legitimacy of the meeting, it would be taken as a formal meeting and all decisions made at the meeting would be considered valid.

(II) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12 APRIL 2022

2. The minutes were confirmed without amendment.

(IV) PAPERS FOR INFORMATION/COMMENT

(B) Legal Aid Department's replies to written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2022-2023 – Paper No. LASC I/P 09/22

4.1 The Chairman said that there were two questions from the Finance Committee of Legislative Council concerning the work of LAD when examining the draft estimates of expenditure for 2022-2023. He invited Members to note LAD's replies to the questions.

4.2 Ms Karen LAM asked if the figure regarding immigration matters contained in the table of the reply to question serial no. 0869 was factually correct since there were 112 applications received yet none of them was granted legal aid certificate in 2021.

4.3 Mr Timothy PARKER also enquired what kind of cases in relation to immigration matters fell outside the purview of judicial review and the reason for \$4.4 million expenditure in 2021 given no legal aid certificates granted in that year.

4.4 DLA stressed that all figures in the table were cross-checked for accuracy and explained that the \$4.4 million expenditure incurred in

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financial year 2020-21 were all related to those legal aid certificates issued in previous years. Besides, he quoted an example of immigration matter falling outside judicial review which was that there had been claims lodged by the unlawful immigrants against the Director of Immigration for habeas corpus.

4.5 Members took note of DLA's replies to the questions.

(F) Monthly Statement of Income and Expenditure of LASC for the Months of March and April 2022 - Paper No. LASC I/P 13/22

8.1 The Chairman said that the expenditure for the months of March and April 2022 for the Council was controlled within budget.

8.2 Members noted the two monthly statements.

(VII) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

11. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m. The next Council Meeting would be held on Tuesday, 2 August 2022.

LASC Secretariat
June 2022