

Legal Aid Services Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 14 November 2023
at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Office

PRESENT

Prof. William LEUNG, GBS, JP	Chairman
Mr Robin EGERTON	Member
Mr Tom FU	“
Ms Serena LAU, MH, JP	“
Ms Rosita LEE	“
Miss Iris WAN	“
Mr Chris CHONG, JP	Director of Legal Aid
Mr Patrick WONG	Secretary

IN ATTENDANCE

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

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

Mr Bosco CHENG	Member
Mr Ronald SUM, JP	“
Ms Yvonne YEUNG	“



Item

Action By

(I) INTRODUCTION

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

(II) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 AUGUST 2023

2. The minutes were confirmed without amendment.

(IV) PAPERS FOR INFORMATION/COMMENT

(F) Quarterly Report of Income and Expenditure of LASC for the Second Quarter of Financial Year 2023-24 – Paper No. LASC I/P 26/23

8.1 The Chairman said that the quarterly report summarised the income and expenditure of the Council in the second quarter of financial year 2023-24 from 1 July to 30 September 2023. The overall spending position as at the end of September arrived at 46% of the approved budget which was well controlled.

8.2 The Chairman mentioned that the expenditure on some items were less than 30%, e.g. the office stationery, the depreciation of fixed assets and transportation fee but these were only minor items. Besides, the annual procurement exercise was usually carried out by the Secretariat in the third quarter of each financial year and relevant expenses would be incurred later this year. For the expenditure on contract staff, the position of contract clerk had been vacant for some time and the Secretariat was trying to recruit a suitable replacement for the position.

8.3 Members took note of the quarterly report.

(V) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(G) Schedule of Meetings for 2024 – Paper No. LASC I/P 27/23

9. The Chairman said that having consulted with LAD, the Council meetings in 2024 were proposed to be set on the third Tuesday of the relevant months in order to facilitate the preparation of quarterly statistics and reference materials by LAD. As no comment was raised

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at the meeting, the Chairman invited Members to take note of the meetings dates for the coming year and to attend the meetings as scheduled.

Radio Programme attended by the Chairman and DLA in October 2023

10. The Chairman said that with the arrangement by the PR Consultant, he and DLA jointly attended a radio programme (i.e. 政好星期天) on legal aid issues broadcasted by the Commercial Radio Hong Kong on 22 October 2023. The programme was well covered by a number of media and social platforms. Relevant news cuttings were circulated to Members for reference earlier on.

(VI) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

12. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m. The next Council Meeting would be held on Tuesday, 20 February 2024.

LASC Secretariat
December 2023