

Legal Aid Services Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 21 May 2024
at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Office

PRESENT

Prof. William LEUNG, GBS, JP	Chairman
Mr Bosco CHENG	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 Bryan CHEUNG	EO/LASC

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

Mr Robin EGERTON	Member
Mr Ronald SUM, JP	“
Ms Yvonne YEUNG	“



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(I) INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed Members and Mr Steve WONG of the Legal Aid Department (LAD) to the meeting. In view that the Amber Rainstorm Warning Signal was issued and remained in force after 12 noon, the meeting was conducted in a mixed mode in accordance with the established Guidelines on Council Meeting Arrangements in times of Tropical Cyclones and Rainstorms. All Members present joined the meeting via telephone conference. The Chairman said that it would be taken as a formal meeting and all decisions made at the meeting would be considered valid. All Members present supported the meeting arrangement.

(II) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2024

2. The minutes were confirmed without amendment.

(III) PAPERS FOR INFORMATION/COMMENT

(A) Legal Aid Department's Reply to Written Question Raised by Finance Committee Members in Examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2024-2025 - Paper No. LASC I/P 08/24

3.1 The Chairman said that there was one question raised by the LegCo Finance Committee concerning the processing time of payments to lawyers. The reply of Director of Legal Aid (DLA) was provided for Members' reference. The Chairman would like to know the functional constituency of the LegCo member raising the question. In response, DLA advised that the LegCo member came from the legal sector and LAD would further follow up with him regarding the processing time for payment of fees to the assigned lawyers where appropriate.

3.2 Members took note of DLA's reply to the question.

(E) Quarterly Report of Income and Expenditure of LASC for the Fourth Quarter of Financial Year 2023-24 - Paper No. LASC I/P 12/24

7.1 The Chairman said that the Quarterly Report summarised the income and expenditure of the Council in the fourth quarter of financial year 2023-24 from 1 January to 31 March 2024. The overall spending

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position as at the end of March arrived at 96%, which was almost in line with the approved budget of the Council.

7.2 The Chairman also mentioned that the expenditure on some items were less than 80%, namely the depreciation of fixed assets and transportation fee, but these were only minor items that did not affect the overall expenditure. Regarding the expenditure on contract staff, the position of contract clerk had been vacant for a while and the Secretariat would continue to identify a suitable replacement for the position.

7.3 Members took note of the Quarterly Report.

(V) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p.m. The next Council Meeting would be held on Tuesday, 20 August 2024.

LASC Secretariat
June 2024