

Legal Aid Services Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 18 February 2025
at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Office

PRESENT

Prof. William LEUNG, GBS, JP	Chairman
Dr Eugene CHAN, SBS, JP	Member
Mr Sebastian HUGHES	“
Mr Robin EGERTON	“
Ms Serena LAU, MH, JP	“
Ms Rosita LEE	“
Ms Elaine SHIU	“
Mr Ronald SUM, JP	“
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 Tom FU	Member
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Item

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(I) INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed Members, in particular Ms Elaine SHIU, who attended the Council Meeting for the first time, and Mr Steve WONG of the Legal Aid Department (LAD) to the meeting.

(II) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2024

2. The minutes were confirmed without amendment.

(IV) PAPERS FOR INFORMATION/COMMENT

(B) Speeches at the Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year 2025 – Paper No. LASC I/P 02/25

4.1 The Chairman reported that the Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year 2025 was held on 20 January 2025. Copies of the speeches delivered by the Chief Justice, the Secretary for Justice, the Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association and the President of the Law Society of Hong Kong at the ceremony were attached to the Paper No. LASC I/P 02/25 for Members' reference. No specific matter concerning legal aid was raised in the speeches.

4.2 Members noted the speeches.

(G) Quarterly Report of Income and Expenditure of LASC for the Third Quarter of Financial Year 2024-25 – Paper No. LASC I/P 07/25

9.1 The Chairman gave a brief account on the Quarterly Report summarising the income and expenditure of the Council in the third quarter of financial year 2024-2025 from 1 October to 31 December 2024. The overall spending position as at the end of December arrived at 68% of the approved budget, which was similar to that in the same period of last year and was well controlled.

9.2 The expenses of certain items were just around 50%, namely the depreciation of fixed assets and transportation fee, but these were only minor items. In the last quarter of this financial year, it was expected that payments for the production of annual report and cleaning

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services with a total cost of around \$83,000 would be made under the item of “Hire of Services”, and there might also be “Incidental Administration Expenses” incurred for certain upgrading of computer hardware or software. Furthermore, the relevant provision of contract staff would be adjusted accordingly at the end of this financial year to reflect the contract clerk position which was frozen as endorsed by the Council in August 2024.

9.3 Members took note of the Quarterly Report.

(V) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Vote of Thanks

10. The Chairman informed the Council Members that Mr Steve WONG would soon retire from the civil service in March and proposed a vote of thanks to him for his past contributions and distinguished services, especially for the improvements made to the reporting format of LAD papers which contributed to the efficient conduct of Council meetings. All Members supported and seconded.

(VI) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

11. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m. The next Council Meeting would be held on Tuesday, 20 May 2025.