

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

HAB143

Question Serial No.

2782

Head: 94 Legal Aid Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Processing of Legal Aid Applications

Controlling Officer: Director of Legal Aid

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

The Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) and the Legal Aid Department are conducting a review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility of legal aid applicants. Please inform Members of the progress and timetable of the review as well as the expenditure to be incurred in 2010-11.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply:

The Administration has concluded the review of the criteria for assessing the financial eligibility limit for legal aid applicants. The report of the review was submitted to the Legal Aid Services Council in January 2010 for consultation. The recommendations of the review will be discussed by the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services on 29 March 2010. The Department will assist HAB to introduce legislative amendments necessary for implementation of the recommendations. Judging from the progress of the exercise, it is anticipated that the recommendations will be implemented in early 2011. As such, the impact on the expenditure arising from the review for 2010-11 will be minimal.

Signature _____

Name in block letters **William CHAN** _____

Post Title **Director of Legal Aid** _____

Date **17.3.2010** _____