

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****CSO014****(Question Serial No. 0869)**

Head: (94) Legal Aid Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Legal Aid (Chris YT CHONG)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Regarding the legal aid provided by the Legal Aid Department for criminal and various types of civil cases including judicial review cases in the past year, please set out in tabular form the total number of applications received, the number of cases approved and a breakdown of the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

For civil cases, the numbers of legal aid applications and certificates granted by the Legal Aid Department (LAD) in 2021 and the expenditure incurred in 2020-21 broken down by case type are as follows -

Type of Civil Legal Aid Applications	Number of Legal Aid Applications Received in 2021	Number of Legal Aid Certificates Granted in 2021	Expenditure of civil legal aid cases in 2020-21 [Note 1] (\$ million)
Personal Injuries Claims	4 929	2 430	413.7
Matrimonial Cases	4 570	2 079	127.7
Land and Tenancy Disputes	465	85	47.1
Employment Disputes	57	5	7.5
Immigration Matters	112	0	4.4
Wage Claims	45	30	0.5
Judicial Review	450	84	34.0
Others	1 247	203	68.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>11 875</b>	<b>4 916</b>	<b>703.3</b>

Note 1: The expenditure of civil legal aid cases incurred is by financial year. The expenditure incurred in this financial year may include expenditure on cases where legal aid certificates were issued in previous years.

For criminal cases, the numbers of legal aid applications received and certificates granted by LAD in 2021, as well as the expenditure incurred in financial year 2020-21 are tabulated below. LAD does not maintain separate statistics of legal aid certificates or the public expenditure broken down by nature of the offences or the type of cases.

<b>Number of Criminal Legal Aid Applications Received in 2021</b>	<b>Number of Criminal Legal Aid Certificates Granted in 2021</b>	<b>Expenditure of Criminal Legal Aid Cases in 2020-21 [Note 2] (\$ million)</b>
3 209	2 431	249.8

Note 2: The expenditure of criminal legal aid cases incurred is by financial year. The expenditure incurred in this financial year may include expenditure on cases where legal aid certificates were issued in previous years.

- End -