

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY****CSO031****(Question Serial No. 3906)**Head: (94) Legal Aid DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (-) Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Legal Aid (Chris YT CHONG)Director of Bureau: Director of AdministrationQuestion:

Regarding the legal costs incurred in judicial cases involving the Government, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

What were the amounts of legal aid costs expended by the Legal Aid Department and duty lawyer fees in each of the past 5 years?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

In the past 5 financial years, the legal aid costs incurred by the Legal Aid Department for cases involving the Government are tabulated below:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Civil legal aid costs<sup>1</sup> (\$ million)</b>	<b>Criminal legal aid costs<sup>2</sup> (\$ million)</b>
2019-20	107.9	327.3
2020-21	85.1	249.8
2021-22	71.3	335.3
2022-23	89.6	381.6
2023-24	64.7	386.7

Note (1): Including legal proceedings initiated by or against the Government

Note (2): Including criminal cases prosecuted by the Government

As regards the Duty Lawyer Scheme which serves to complement the legal aid services, the legal costs incurred for the Duty Lawyer Service (DLS) for cases involving the Government in the past 5 financial years are tabulated below:

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Legal costs for the DLS<sup>3</sup> (\$ million)</b>
2019-20	67.1
2020-21	76.3
2021-22	81.2
2022-23	82.0
2023-24	84.5

Note (3): Including criminal cases prosecuted by the Government and death inquests applied for by the Government

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