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Replies to initial questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2026-27

Secretary for Justice

Session No. : 4

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ001

(Question Serial No. 1834)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget that the Government will inject \$1.2 billion into the sports portion of the Arts and Sport Development Fund to further promote sports development. The rapid expansion of the sports industry will inevitably lead to a rise in disputes related to commercial contracts, sponsorships, athlete transfers between clubs, and competitions. Yet, our existing pool of legal, mediation and arbitration professionals who are well-versed in the field of sports is unable to meet the demand generated by the rapid growth of the sports industry. To promote the development of sports dispute resolution in Hong Kong and to consolidate Hong Kong's status as an international hub for mediation and arbitration, will the Government consider deploying resources to broaden the scope of mediation and arbitration training by providing legal and other professionals (especially current and retired athletes) with systematic training in sports dispute resolution? This will not only provide fair and effective professional safeguards for athletes and sports associations to protect their legitimate interests, but also pioneer a new segment of local legal services, thereby creating greater room for career development for such professionals.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hiu-fung, Nick (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

The sports portion of the Arts and Sport Development Fund (ASDF) has been a major funding source for the development and promotion of sports in Hong Kong. Its main purposes include subsidising Hong Kong, China athletes to prepare for and participate in Chinese Mainland and international sports events, supporting the hosting of sports events locally by national sports associations and organisations, promoting the development of football and other team sports, and facilitating other one-off initiatives that are important to the development and promotion of sports.

The 2026-27 Budget mentions the injection of \$1.2 billion into the sports portion of ASDF. This amount, together with the current balance of ASDF's sports portion of approximately \$1.9 billion, will be used to provide funding support for the purposes mentioned above in the coming years. The \$1.2 billion injection will mainly be allocated to implement the following initiatives in the coming years: (i) further enhancing the Development Programme for Team

Sports, (ii) improving coach training programmes and systems, (iii) extending the Urban Sports Funding Scheme, as well as (iv) supporting and exploring more diverse and higher-level sports competitions through the “M” Mark System and the like. The Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau (CSTB) is examining and finalising the details and estimates of the initiatives.

With the robust development of the sports industry, disputes have become increasingly diverse and complex, and the demand for dispute resolution services specifically tailored to resolve sports disputes has been on the rise. From 2023 to 2025, the Department of Justice (DoJ) and CSTB engaged with key stakeholders (including the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, the Hong Kong Bar Association, the Law Society of Hong Kong and the dispute resolution sector). It was noted that the local sports sector was keen to see the establishment of a neutral, fair and efficient mechanism to handle and resolve sports disputes.

The DoJ established the Advisory Committee on Sports Dispute Resolution in January 2025 and, upon consulting it, launched the Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution (the Pilot Scheme) in December 2025. The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre (AALCO-HKRAC) and eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre Limited (eBRAM) serve as the administering body and the technology provider respectively for the Pilot Scheme, which has been accepting applications for mediation and arbitration of sports disputes since 13 February 2026 and adopts a “mediation first, arbitration next” approach to resolve commercial and non-commercial sports disputes. The Pilot Scheme will run for 2 years and will be reviewed in due course.

As a centre for international legal and dispute resolution services, Hong Kong is home to a large pool of sports dispute resolution talents with extensive expertise and experience. As of 6 March 2026, there were a total of 110 arbitrators with expertise in sports on the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre’s panel and list of arbitrators, and 153 mediators with expertise in sports on the Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited’s panel of mediators. At present, there are 53 mediators and 43 arbitrators on the panels of sports mediators and sports arbitrators respectively under the Pilot Scheme, including those from the local legal and sports sectors and professional dispute resolution practitioners from 23 jurisdictions, as well as experienced experts in international sports mediation and arbitration. AALCO-HKRAC will continue to process applications for inclusion on the panels and update the panels accordingly.

The DoJ has been actively organising and supporting talent training on sports dispute resolution and will continue to promote the development of sports dispute resolution in collaboration with the legal and sports sectors (including the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China), thereby advancing Hong Kong’s development as an international centre for sports dispute resolution. Efforts made by the DoJ in this regard include co-organising the Sports Arbitration Demonstration with the Hong Kong Bar Association and Hong Kong Baptist University on 9 October 2025; and serving as a supporting organisation of the 1st and 2nd AALCO Sports Mediation Training Programmes held in January and September 2025 respectively, and eBRAM’s Certified Online Dispute Resolution Training Course (Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution Special Session) on 11 and 25 February 2026. The DoJ will organise a sports mediation seminar during the

Mediation Week in May 2026 and a sports dispute resolution workshop in the 2nd quarter of 2026.

The target participants of the above training programmes include those from the legal and sports sectors (e.g. representatives of local national sports associations, current and retired athletes, and other individuals who aspire to be involved in sports dispute resolution), with a view to promoting the diversified development of dispute resolution services in Hong Kong and providing relevant individuals with wider career development prospects.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ002

(Question Serial No. 1847)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

The Task Force on Supporting Mainland Enterprises in Going Global will organise promotional activities to attract Mainland enterprises to venture into global markets through Hong Kong. The Government will also set up a cross-sectoral professional services platform, bringing together Hong Kong's professional services providers in the field of legal services, accounting, financial services, testing and certification, marketing, etc. to support enterprises going global. Will the Government consider offering some incentives to attract more local professional services providers to participate in the operation of the platform?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hiu-fung, Nick (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

Initiated by the Department of Justice (DoJ), the Hong Kong Professional Services GoGlobal Platform (the Platform) was launched in December 2025 to support Mainland enterprises going global, with a focus on the following 2 major areas:

- (i) integrating information related to Hong Kong's professional services to facilitate the precise connections between enterprises and Hong Kong's professional services; and
- (ii) enhancing the sector's understanding of the specific needs of enterprises for professional services when expanding overseas and co-ordinating Hong Kong's professional services to provide efficient support for these enterprises.

Integrating information

The DoJ will strengthen ties with relevant bureaux and organisations, such as the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), the Law Society of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Bar Association to compile and publish success stories of supporting enterprises going global and consolidate information on professional services providers that support enterprises going global, to facilitate their enquiries and matching:

- (i) At the launch ceremony of the Platform, the DoJ officially released the inaugural edition of the “Collection of Success Stories: Hong Kong’s Professional Services Supporting Chinese Mainland Enterprises Going Global” (bilingual in Chinese and English) (the Collection). The publication includes over 50 success stories spanning various professional domains, including legal, finance, accounting and dispute resolution, covering different industries and investment locations such as the emerging markets of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Middle East and Africa. These practical examples clearly demonstrate Hong Kong’s unique role as a “world-class springboard” and the strengths of its legal and other professional services to enterprises and stakeholders in Chinese Mainland and beyond. The electronic version of the publication has been uploaded to the DoJ’s website (https://www.doj.gov.hk/tc/publications/pdf/Go_Global_Success_Stories_Booklet_tc.pdf).

The Collection was well received upon its release, attracting positive responses from enterprises and the professional services sectors. The DoJ is preparing for the compilation of the 2nd edition of the Collection, which is expected to be released in mid-2026.

- (ii) In addition to the Collection, the DoJ will also invite in phases representatives from the professional services sectors and enterprises going global to share their experiences, and will produce short videos to further promote Hong Kong’s unique role as a “springboard” for overseas expansion, thereby providing practical references for enterprises in various sectors interested in seeking a deeper understanding of Hong Kong’s legal and other professional services.

The 1st episode of the short video series, produced and uploaded to the DoJ’s website (https://www.doj.gov.hk/video/20260220dsj_blog.mp4), talks about the success of a Mainland-invested company in venturing into and gaining a foothold in the Indonesian market with the support of Hong Kong’s professional services.

- (iii) The DoJ will compile and publish panel lists of professional services providers in different fields supporting overseas expansion, to facilitate enterprises to connect with the professional services providers that best fit the types of professional services required and the industrial sectors of enterprises.

The above lists will be released by the DoJ and uploaded to the cross-sectoral professional services platform website operated by the HKTDC.

Understanding the specific needs of enterprises going global

The DoJ will continue liaising with relevant Mainland authorities, local people’s governments at provincial and municipal levels, trade and industrial organisations at home and abroad, and representatives from enterprises to learn more about the diverse professional service needs of enterprises across various regions and sectors. For instance, during the China Conference: Southeast Asia 2026 in Jakarta in February 2026, the Deputy Secretary for Justice (DSJ) exchanged views and discussed with representatives from the China Chamber of Commerce in Indonesia to learn about the specific professional service needs of Mainland enterprises in different sectors (such as the chemical, energy and financial industries) in their course of

“going global” and their successful experiences of leveraging the professional services platform of Hong Kong. These exchange activities provide important guidance for developing our future plans and refining our way forward.

Promotion and matching

The DoJ will continue publicising and promoting Hong Kong’s professional services through relevant Mainland authorities, local people’s governments at provincial and municipal levels and other channels, and providing a platform for Hong Kong’s professional services sectors to share and connect with enterprises with potential or intent to “go global”. For instance, the DSJ led a delegation of more than 40 representatives from cross-professional sectors to Qianhai, Shenzhen in December last year to exchange views with representatives from about 70 Mainland enterprises and industry associations, with a view to deepening the Mainland enterprises’ understanding of the strengths of Hong Kong’s professional services and promoting Hong Kong to be their preferred platform for going global.

The DoJ believes that the above specific measures will attract local professional services providers to participate actively in the work of the Platform, thereby facilitating the development of the Platform as a hub that brings together Hong Kong’s professional services across different disciplines to support enterprises going global.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ003

(Question Serial No. 1848)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

The Government will strengthen the accreditation and disciplinary systems for the mediation profession in Hong Kong, and will take forward the relevant legislative work within the year. Does the Government have any specific legislative schedule in this regard?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hiu-fung, Nick (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

The Working Group on Mediation Regulatory System established by the Department of Justice (DoJ) completed a comprehensive review in late 2024 and made a series of recommendations after conducting stakeholder consultations in 2025, including a proposal to introduce legislative amendments. The DoJ plans to consult stakeholders, including mediation institutions, on the amendment bill in mid-2026. After considering the views of the stakeholders, the DoJ will seek to advance the legislative amendment work in the second half of 2026. It is expected that the target date for the bill to be submitted to the Legislative Council is November 2026.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ004

(Question Serial No. 2350)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

The expenditure of the Department of Justice rose from HK\$2.11 billion in 2025-26 (revised estimate) to HK\$2.54 billion in 2026-27 (estimate), representing an increase of more than 20%. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hiu-fung, Nick (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

The estimate of the expenditure for 2026-27 is about 20.4% higher than the revised estimate for 2025-26. This is mainly because the estimates for court costs and briefing-out expenditure for 2026-27 increase by about \$174.8 million and \$160.3 million respectively as compared with the revised estimates for 2025-26, accounting for approximately 80% of the increase. The estimates were made by different divisions and units of the Department of Justice based on the information available at the time of preparation. The increase was due to a number of factors, including the number of cases involved, their complexity and development.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ005

(Question Serial No. 2352)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

The Department of Justice is preparing for the development of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building as a new landmark of international legal hub, which will be home to the headquarters of the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy and international legal and dispute resolution services institutions, etc. The DoJ will continue attracting international legal and dispute resolution services institutions to establish offices in Hong Kong. Amongst them, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) will establish its Asia-Pacific Liaison Office in Hong Kong this year. What specific measures will the Government adopt to attract international legal organisations and talents to establish their presence in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hiu-fung, Nick (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

The International Organization for Mediation (IOMed) was officially established in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on 20 October 2025 and has since commenced operations. The Hong Kong International Legal Service Building will sit adjacent to the IOMed headquarters in Wan Chai, with a view to harnessing synergy between IOMed and related legal organisations, including the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy, thereby promoting international legal talent exchanges and consolidating Hong Kong's position as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Department of Justice (DoJ) is actively taking forward the establishment of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) Asia-Pacific Liaison Office in Hong Kong in 2026. Furthermore, the DoJ will continue to collaborate with various international organisations and the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the HKSAR in organising international forums during the Hong Kong Legal Week in the 4th quarter of 2026. The forums will bring together legal professionals from different jurisdictions, representatives of international organisations, government officials and academics to exchange experiences and share insights on international law, private international law and international trade law, demonstrating Hong Kong as a hub for

international legal exchanges and attracting more international legal institutions to establish their presence.

In addition, with the support of the Central Government, the DoJ has put in place arrangements for secondment with a number of international organisations, including the secondment programmes to the Hague Conference on Private International Law, UNIDROIT, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and the IOMed headquarters. The DoJ will continue to take forward the secondment programmes and support the work of these international organisations. These arrangements continue to bolster these organisations' confidence in establishing a presence in Hong Kong and their example would be seen by other international organisations, thereby attracting more international legal institutions to consider setting up in Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ006

(Question Serial No. 2353)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

The Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy (the Academy) has provided professional practical training for over 2 000 participants from various places and will continue facilitating experience sharing with legal and dispute resolution practitioners in the Mainland, Belt and Road and other jurisdictions. Which places, other than the Mainland, have participated in the programmes of the Academy?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hiu-fung, Nick (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

Since its launch in November 2024, the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy (the Academy) has provided professional practical training for over 2 000 participants from various regions. These training programmes were conducted in Hong Kong, the Chinese Mainland and overseas. Some programmes were specifically designed for the overseas, the Chinese Mainland and the local legal sector, while others, such as international conferences, brought together participants from all these regions. In addition to professionals from the Chinese Mainland, local practitioners and those from other jurisdictions, including the Middle East, Latin America, Europe, Africa and Southeast Asia, have also taken part in the capacity-building initiatives organised or sponsored by the Academy, such as international conferences.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ007

(Question Serial No. 1674)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 155 of the Budget Speech that the Government will take forward the legislative exercise concerning the framework for accreditation and disciplinary matters of the mediation profession this year. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the specific timetable for the legislative exercise (including the target date for introducing the bill) and the target parties to be consulted?
2. What are the estimated expenditure and additional staffing involved (listed by major work items) for establishing the framework for accreditation and disciplinary matters?
3. Will transitional training or a subsidy be provided to existing local legal practitioners to help them align with the new framework? If yes, what are the estimated expenditure and subsidy arrangements involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

1. The Working Group on Mediation Regulatory System established by the Department of Justice (DoJ) completed a comprehensive review in late 2024 and made a series of recommendations after conducting stakeholder consultations in 2025, including a proposal to introduce legislative amendments. The DoJ plans to consult stakeholders, including mediation institutions, on the amendment bill in mid-2026. After considering the views of the stakeholders, the DoJ will seek to take forward the legislative amendment work in the second half of 2026, with the target date for introducing the bill into the Legislative Council expected to be in November 2026.
2. In advancing the framework for accreditation and disciplinary matters of mediation professionals, the DoJ has been working in close collaboration with the Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited (HKMAAL). Established in 2012 as an industry-led, non-statutory body, the HKMAAL is responsible for setting accreditation

standards for mediators and training courses, assessing applications for mediator accreditation and training course accreditation based on those standards, and regulating accredited mediators. The DoJ will continue to engage with the sector on the related matters, support the HKMAAL in assessing applications for mediator accreditation, enhancing the mediator regulatory system, etc., and implement measures to foster the development of the mediation sector in Hong Kong.

These duties are mainly undertaken by the Alternative Dispute Resolution Unit under the Civil Division of the DoJ. Its establishment is as follows:

Unit	Existing establishment
Alternative Dispute Resolution Unit	1 Principal Government Counsel, 1 Deputy Principal Government Counsel, 6 Senior Government Counsel, 8 Government Counsel, 3 Law Clerks, 2 Personal Secretaries I, 1 Personal Secretary II and 2 Assistant Clerical Officers

As the work is undertaken by these officers among their other duties, the manpower and estimated expenditure involved are not separately identified. We have no plans at this stage to increase the estimate of expenditure or the manpower for these initiatives.

3. At present, training for mediators in Hong Kong and relevant continuing professional development courses, including the accredited training courses approved by the HKMAAL, are generally provided by relevant institutions in the mediation sector. In general, local legal practitioners and mediators need to bear their own expenses for participating in training and continuing professional development courses. Therefore, we have no plans at this stage to provide transitional training or subsidies.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ008

(Question Serial No. 1675)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 170 of the Budget Speech that the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy (the Academy) will continue to facilitate experience sharing with various jurisdictions. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the specific curriculum plans of the Academy for the next 3 years (including the types and quotas of exchange or training programmes targeting countries along the Belt and Road)?
2. How does the curriculum planning of the Academy proactively align with the requirement of “accelerating the development of a foreign-related legal system and capabilities” under the 15th Five-Year Plan? Is there a list of key topics, partner jurisdictions or partner institutions?
3. How is the training effectiveness measured? Are there any specific performance indicators (e.g. programme completion rate, number of international co-operation projects, and quantitative assessment of improvement in the trainees’ foreign-related business competencies)?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

- (1) In the coming 3 years, the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy (the Academy) will continue to make good use of Hong Kong’s bilingual common law system and international status, to serve as a capacity-building as well as knowledge and experience-sharing platform for legal professionals in Hong Kong, the Chinese Mainland and other jurisdictions, in particular those in regions along the Belt and Road (B&R). The Academy will actively collaborate with more international organisations, legal institutions, countries and legal professional bodies in providing customised practical programmes on various legal topics, and will also regularly organise training courses for legal talents from different jurisdictions. It is hoped that

the practical legal courses, seminars and international exchange activities to be organised will promote international legal talent exchanges and provide more training for legal professionals.

To facilitate exchanges among countries along the B&R, the Academy will join hands with the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to co-organise the 2nd Edition of "Belt and Road" Visit for Hong Kong Young International Legal Talents in July this year. It also plans to organise training programmes in Xinjiang, Southeast Asia and other countries along the B&R, and to foster exchanges through international conferences.

- (2) The National 15th Five-year Plan positions Hong Kong as an "international hub for high-calibre talents" to deepen the development of international legal and dispute resolution services. The Academy will proactively align with the 15th Five-year Plan through organising foreign-related rule of law training programmes, to consolidate Hong Kong's position as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre and enhance the professional competence of legal professionals in Hong Kong, the Chinese Mainland and countries along the B&R in handling foreign-related rule of law affairs, thereby assisting enterprises in "going global". Specifically, the Academy will focus on providing courses in disciplines such as common law, international commercial dispute resolution, cross-boundary legal practices, and international law, as well as organising international conferences and customised training courses. It will also actively explore collaboration opportunities with various international organisations, legal institutions, countries, legal professional bodies and legal organisations of countries along the B&R.
- (3) Officially launched in November 2024, the Academy is still in its development stage and needs time to accumulate experience. At present, training outcomes are assessed through participants' feedback via feedback forms. The responses from the participants have been very positive, with many offering suggestions on the course topics and content. When planning training programmes of each year, the Academy seeks to strike a balance among local, Chinese Mainland and international collaborations. Looking ahead, the Academy will take participants' feedback into account, and conduct timely reviews and set pertinent performance indicators at a suitable time based on actual circumstances and development needs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ009

(Question Serial No. 1676)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 157 of the Budget Speech that the Hong Kong Professional Services GoGlobal Platform (the Platform) initiated by the Department of Justice was officially launched at the end of last year to collaborate with our professional services sectors in supporting Mainland enterprises to go global with Hong Kong as their preferred platform. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What is the specific mode of operation of the Platform (including its target users, scope of services, fee arrangement and collaboration partners)?
2. What are the Government's estimates for promoting the Platform and dedicated publicity/marketing campaigns for subsidising the legal sector to "go global in groups" for the coming year? If there are no such dedicated estimates, what are the reasons?
3. How will the Platform assist small and medium-sized law firms in meeting the demand for legal services from Mainland enterprises going global (such as client matching, list of services, guidelines on legal risks, and training support) and what is the related resource deployment?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

1. The Department of Justice (DoJ) established the Hong Kong Professional Services GoGlobal Platform (the Platform) to promote Hong Kong's legal services and collaborate with the accounting, financial and other professional services sectors to support the needs of Mainland enterprises for going global. As such, the main service targets of the Platform include Hong Kong's professional services sectors and Mainland enterprises seeking overseas expansion.

The Platform, which is available for use at no cost, focuses on the following work:

- (i) integrating information related to Hong Kong's professional services, thereby facilitating the precise connections between enterprises and Hong Kong's professional services; and
- (ii) enhancing the sector's understanding of the specific needs of enterprises for professional services when expanding overseas and co-ordinating Hong Kong's professional services to provide efficient support for these enterprises.

As regards collaboration partners, the DoJ attaches great importance to collaborating with and supporting other bureaux/departments of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, including the Task Force on Supporting Mainland Enterprises in Going Global established by the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau in October 2025, to jointly take forward the initiatives relating to "going global", with a view to providing a "safe passage" for enterprises and ensuring their successful global expansion.

Moreover, the DoJ also places emphasis on collaborating with stakeholders from different sectors, and established the Expert Committee on Professional Services for Going Global (the Expert Committee) in January 2026. Chaired by the Deputy Secretary for Justice (DSJ), the Expert Committee comprises 13 members who are experts from the legal, financial, and accounting sectors from the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong, as well as outstanding business and corporate representatives, to provide strategic advice to support and promote the work of the Platform.

2. The DoJ has not reserved any dedicated funds for promoting the Platform or subsidising "overseas visiting groups" of the legal sector. The expenditure incurred for supporting the Platform is absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ. The DoJ reviews from time to time its manpower resources and will redeploy staff to handle the workload as operational needs require.
3. The DoJ will strengthen ties with relevant bureaux and organisations, such as the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the Law Society of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Bar Association, to compile and publish success stories of supporting enterprises going global, and to consolidate information on professional services providers (including different kinds of small and medium-sized law firms) that support enterprises in going global to facilitate their enquiries and matching.

Moreover, the DoJ will continue publicising and promoting Hong Kong's professional services through relevant Mainland authorities, local people's governments at provincial and municipal levels and other channels, while providing a platform for Hong Kong's professional services sectors to share and connect with enterprises with the potential or intention to "go global". For instance, the DSJ led a delegation of more than 40 representatives from cross-professional sectors (including different types of small and medium-sized law firms and junior barristers) to Qianhai, Shenzhen in December last year to exchange views with representatives from about 70 Mainland enterprises and industry associations, with a view to deepening the Mainland enterprises' understanding

of the strengths of Hong Kong's professional services and promoting Hong Kong to be their preferred platform for going global.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ010

(Question Serial No. 2256)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 153 of the Budget Speech that the Department of Justice is preparing for the development of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building (the Building) and the preparatory works will commence this year. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the total estimated expenditure, phased funding arrangements and anticipated completion date for the construction of the Building?
2. What are the criteria, process and timetable for selecting the international legal and dispute resolution services institutions to be housed in the Building?
3. Will smart elements (e.g. smart security and visitor access management, electronic document and file management, video hearing and remote conferencing facilities, and energy management for smart buildings) be incorporated in the Building's design and operations planning? If yes, what will be the estimated additional expenditure incurred and the implementation arrangements? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Man-ki, Maggie (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

1. The Department of Justice (DoJ) is preparing for the development of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building (the Building). Preparatory works, including site investigation and consultancy studies, will commence within this year in preparation for seeking funding approval for the construction project. Upon securing the funding, our target is to commence construction by the end of 2027. As the project is still in the planning and study stage, other specific details such as the expenditure, funding arrangements and completion schedule are not available at this stage.
2. The DoJ is currently preparing for the development of the Building. Relevant arrangements and information regarding the move-in of legal and dispute resolution services institutions to the Building will be announced in a timely manner.

3. Having regard to the operational needs of the Building and subject to cost-effectiveness and technical feasibility, the DoJ will actively consider incorporating smart elements (e.g. building energy management system, smart access control and video conferencing facilities) as appropriate into the project. As the project is still in the planning and study stage, the estimated expenditure and the implementation arrangements are not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ011

(Question Serial No. 0051)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

Subhead (No. & title): (700) General Non-recurrent

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

1. Regarding the accumulated expenditure (amounting to \$2,835,000 as at 31 March 2025) and the revised estimated expenditure for 2025-26 (\$300,000) under Item 519 "Development of Mainland-related legal services in Hong Kong", what are the specific projects involved? Please provide a breakdown of the financial provision by categories of projects and advise on the staff establishment involved.

2. Does the Government have any plans to utilise the balance of \$1,200,000 under Item 519 "Development of Mainland-related legal services in Hong Kong"? If yes, please provide details about the specific proposals (including projects, timetable and expected outcomes). If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

1. Item 519 "Development of Mainland-related legal services in Hong Kong" under the subhead of "General non-recurrent" was created in 2004-05 with the aims of developing Mainland-related legal services in Hong Kong and to promote Hong Kong as a regional legal services and dispute resolution centre. The revised estimated expenditure for 2025-26 was mainly used for the following activities:

- (i) In 2025-26, arrangements were made for representatives from various professional sectors to engage in exchanges and direct dialogues with senior executives of Mainland enterprises and representatives from Mainland industry associations to deepen Mainland enterprises' understanding of the advantages of Hong Kong's professional services, promote the role of Hong Kong's professional services in supporting Mainland enterprises to expand overseas and promote Hong Kong to be their preferred platform for going global; and
- (ii) Pursuant to the co-operation agreements between the Department of Justice (DoJ) and various Mainland justice departments/bureaux, both sides will conduct regular exchange and training programmes for their legal officials. In 2025-26, the DoJ

organised short-term Mainland exchange and training programmes for Government Counsel. It also hosted a 2-week visit for a delegation of legal officials from the relevant Mainland justice departments/bureaux, arranging study tours to government departments and legal and judicial institutions to further deepen bilateral exchanges.

2. The estimated expenditure for 2026-27 is expected to be \$300,000. In the coming year, the provision under this item will be used for the following activities:
 - (i) organising exchange programmes on overseas expansion;
 - (ii) attending meetings related to the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) Agreement on Trade in Services;
 - (iii) arranging short-term exchanges and training for Government Counsel to visit Mainland justice departments/bureaux;
 - (iv) conducting visits to relevant Mainland authorities; and
 - (v) deploying staff to promote Hong Kong's professional services in the Mainland.

The balance under Item 519 is intended to be utilised evenly over the next few years to ensure that the DoJ can continue to take forward and carry out its initiatives for the "Development of Mainland-related legal services in Hong Kong". As these tasks are undertaken by the relevant officers among their other duties, the manpower/expenditure actually involved cannot be separately identified. All related expenditures will continue to be absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ012

(Question Serial No. 0052)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (2) Civil

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

1. With regard to the Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution being implemented, have any specific requirements on qualification accreditation (e.g. years of experience or recognised bodies) been stipulated? If yes, please list the requirements by professional categories or qualifications, and advise whether assessment has been made on the number of qualified professionals (e.g. mediators, arbitrators or experts in sports law) currently available in Hong Kong based on these requirements. If not, will the imposition of such qualification requirements be explored?
2. Has the Government set any long-term goals for the Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution (for example, leveraging the scheme to further promote and develop dispute resolution services in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area)? If yes, please elaborate on the goals and details of the plan. If not, will the Government consider formulating goals and plans in this direction?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

1. According to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution (the Pilot Scheme) signed between the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre (AALCO-HKRAC) and eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre Limited, AALCO-HKRAC shall maintain panels of suitably qualified mediators and arbitrators for providing dispute resolution services under the Pilot Scheme. Suitable qualifications include the applicant's recognised accreditations, experience in mediation and arbitration, language proficiency, professional knowledge of the sports industry and sports dispute resolution, experience in online dispute resolution, and professional conduct.

At present, there are 53 mediators and 43 arbitrators on the panels of mediators and arbitrators respectively under the Pilot Scheme, including those from the local legal and sports sectors and professional dispute resolution practitioners from 23 jurisdictions, as well as experienced

experts in international sports mediation and arbitration. AALCO-HKRAC will continue to process applications for inclusion on the panels and update the panels accordingly.

2. The Pilot Scheme, which will run for 2 years, has been open for applications for mediation and arbitration of sports disputes since 13 February 2026. The DoJ will continue to drive forward the Pilot Scheme and conduct a review in due course, actively enhance the promotion and talent training efforts in sports dispute resolution, and foster the use of sports mediation and arbitration in Hong Kong, thereby advancing Hong Kong's development as an international centre for sports dispute resolution.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ013

(Question Serial No. 0053)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (2) Civil

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

1. What are the distribution of responsibilities, staffing and estimated expenditure of the Department of Justice (DoJ) on promoting and developing Hong Kong's dispute resolution services in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA)? Has the DoJ made effective use of the existing Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Mediator Panel and Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Arbitrator Panel for purposes such as publicising and promoting to enterprises in the GBA or Mainland enterprises planning to expand overseas the use of dispute resolution services in the GBA for disputes related to commercial contracts, intellectual property or investment?

2. Some Hong Kong and Macao mediation institutions (e.g. the Hong Kong Mediation Council Limited, Hong Kong Mediation Centre and Mainland-Hong Kong Joint Mediation Center) have been engaged by Mainland courts to partake in their mediation work. In view of this, has the DoJ assessed the opportunities and challenges faced by Hong Kong's mediation service providers in partaking in the mediation work of Mainland courts? If yes, will the DoJ plan to allocate funds for conducting a dedicated study to identify ways to further support more Hong Kong mediation institutions in serving as specially invited mediation institutions of Mainland courts?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

1. The Department of Justice (DoJ)'s promotion and development of dispute resolution services in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) is primarily undertaken by the Legal Enhancement and Development Office under the Secretary for Justice's Office and the Alternative Dispute Resolution Unit of the Civil Division. As the work is undertaken by relevant officers among their other duties, the staffing and estimated expenditure involved cannot be separately identified.

On 30 December 2025, the legal departments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao officially promulgated the GBA Mediator Panel 2025 and the GBA Arbitrator Panel, comprising 233 mediators and 143 arbitrators respectively, to enhance the interface of

dispute resolution talents in the 3 jurisdictions. These panels, available on the DoJ's dedicated webpages on mediation and arbitration for viewing and use by the public and enterprises, demonstrate the commitment of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao to promoting quality and efficient dispute resolution services in the GBA.

The DoJ has all along been actively promoting and publicising the GBA Mediator Panel and GBA Arbitrator Panel. It promotes and advocates the use of dispute resolution services among enterprises in the GBA through a number of initiatives, such as:

- taking forward the integration of regulatory frameworks and the establishment of a diversified dispute resolution mechanism in the GBA under the mechanism of the GBA Legal Departments Joint Conference on an ongoing basis, including establishing the GBA Mediator Panel after reviewing the lists of mediators endorsed by each of the 3 places in accordance with their respective accreditation rules formulated under the GBA Mediator Accreditation Standards; establishing the GBA Arbitrator Panel after reviewing the lists of arbitrators nominated by each of the 3 places in accordance with the nomination procedures set out in the Working Guidelines on the Panel of GBA Arbitrators; and developing “GBA standards”, including the GBA Cross-boundary Disputes Mediation Model Rules and the GBA Mediator Code of Conduct Best Practice, to enhance public confidence in using mediation in the GBA;
- continuing organising, co-organising or supporting related forums and publicity events (e.g. Hong Kong Legal Week 2025 and the Mediation Conference 2024), and encouraging the voluntary use of mediation or arbitration to resolve disputes related to commercial contracts, intellectual property, etc.; and
- continuing promoting Hong Kong's strengths as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre, and supporting Chinese Mainland enterprises (especially those planning to expand into overseas markets) to resolve cross-boundary disputes via Hong Kong using “GBA standards”, including the GBA Cross-boundary Disputes Mediation Model Rules and the GBA Mediator Code of Conduct Best Practice.

With the support of the GBA Legal Departments Joint Conference, the DoJ is advancing the establishment of a platform for GBA commercial mediation and arbitration. By sharing professional resources and fostering mutual capacity development, the platform advocates the adoption of the GBA Mediator Panel and the GBA Arbitrator Panel across various GBA cities and the wider adoption of “GBA standards” jointly developed by the 3 places, including the GBA Cross-boundary Disputes Mediation Model Rules and the GBA Mediator Code of Conduct Best Practice, so as to strengthen the interface of regulatory frameworks and promote the “soft connectivity” of non-litigation dispute resolution mechanisms within the GBA, reducing the costs for businesses in resolving cross-boundary disputes.

In addition, the DoJ will utilise the Hong Kong Professional Services GoGlobal Platform launched in December 2025 to further co-ordinate and integrate information related to Hong Kong's professional services, including dispute resolution services, to facilitate precise connections between enterprises and Hong Kong's professional services. It

also strives to enhance the sector's understanding of the specific needs of enterprises going global and co-ordinate Hong Kong's professional services to provide efficient support for these enterprises.

2. Under the "Pilot plan on the integration of mediation bodies from Hong Kong and Macao into the Greater Bay Area as specially invited mediation institutions" released in May 2024 by the High People's Court of Guangdong Province, 4 Hong Kong mediation institutions were included in the 1st batch of specially invited mediation bodies to pilot their services at designated courts in Guangdong, through which they have accumulated practical experience in handling mediation cases.

The DoJ supports Hong Kong mediation institutions in participating in the mediation work of Mainland courts as specially invited mediation bodies. Through sharing mediation resources between the Mainland and Hong Kong, the pilot plan presents significant opportunities for Hong Kong mediation services. It reinforces Hong Kong's position as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre, fully leverages its institutional strengths and multilingual advantages, and enhances the competitiveness of Hong Kong mediators and institutions in cross-boundary dispute resolution. At the present stage, the DoJ will continue to keep in view the assessment and taking forward of the pilot plan by relevant Mainland courts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ014

(Question Serial No. 0054)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (2) Civil

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

1. Regarding the Pilot Scheme on Community Mediation (the Pilot Scheme) implemented by the Department of Justice together with the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, what are the details and the estimated expenditure and manpower involved?
2. Will the Pilot Scheme set any quotas for private institutions, non-governmental organisations or other relevant organisations that can provide training on community mediation? If yes, what are the criteria for quota allocation?
3. Will the Pilot Scheme assess the relevant sectors (e.g. environmental protection, healthcare or community services) that can receive mediation training and the expected number of participants?
4. To effectively promote the concept of mediation and help it take root in the community, will the Government assess the overall willingness and the actual situation of using mediation for dispute resolution by members of the community after implementation of the Pilot Scheme?

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

Reply:

1. The Department of Justice (DoJ), the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) launched the 2-year Pilot Scheme on Community Mediation (the Pilot Scheme) in the 2nd quarter of 2025. Tailored for property management personnel, the Pilot Scheme aims to enhance their mediation skills through professional training to better handle common community disputes (such as water seepage and neighbour conflicts). The training content integrates both theory and practice. In addition to covering fundamental mediation knowledge, it strengthens the trainees' practical application skills via interactive teaching methods such as scenario simulations and role-playing, enabling them to serve

as competent frontline co-ordinators in community disputes, thereby effectively fostering community harmony.

In view of the overwhelming response to the Pilot Scheme since its launch, the DoJ has promptly arranged additional training courses together with the EEB and the FEHD. As of February 2026, 7 training sessions had been conducted and around 160 trainees had been trained. It is expected that a total of 9 training sessions will be conducted by May 2026.

The DoJ, the EEB and the FEHD are reviewing the effectiveness of the training and making refinements to the course content and arrangements as necessary. Under the current plan, the Pilot Scheme is expected to deliver a total of 21 training sessions.

The above initiative is an inter-departmental collaboration project. The related expenditures will continue to be absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ and the EEB, hence the specific estimated expenditure and manpower of the DoJ for the Pilot Scheme cannot be separately identified.

2. The FEHD engaged a Hong Kong mediation institution through a quotation exercise to provide training under the Pilot Scheme. Currently, the Pilot Scheme offers training specifically for property management personnel and does not reserve or allocate quotas for other institutions or organisations (whether as training providers or recipients). The DoJ, the EEB and the FEHD will conduct timely reviews of the overall effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme, including the arrangements for engaging mediation institutions and target participants, so as to ensure its continuous enhancement and alignment with actual needs.
3. At this stage, the Pilot Scheme provides training specifically for property management personnel, with a focus on enhancing their mediation skills in handling common community disputes (such as water seepage and neighbour conflicts). The training courses are designed for classes of approximately 20 to 25 trainees to ensure ample interaction and sufficient opportunities for role-playing and practical mock exercises, thereby ensuring high-quality learning outcomes. The Pilot Scheme is expected to deliver a total of 21 training sessions, and depending on actual enrolment and attendance, the total number of participants of the entire training scheme is projected to be about 500.
4. The DoJ continues to promote the use of mediation by the community for resolving disputes in various areas. Regarding the Pilot Scheme, the DoJ, the EEB and the FEHD will jointly review its effectiveness, including the trainees' satisfaction with the courses and their application of skills. The DoJ will also continue to enhance public awareness of mediation and their willingness to use it for dispute resolution through publicity, education and training activities (including Hong Kong Legal Week, Mediation Week and "Mediate First" Pledge campaign, etc.), thereby fostering the rooting of the concept of mediation in the community.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ015

(Question Serial No. 2644)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (3) Constitutional and Policy Affairs

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

1. To promote Hong Kong as the preferred platform for Mainland enterprises to expand their business overseas, what specific activities or projects (e.g. seminars, co-operation agreements or promotion and publicity activities) has the Department of Justice undertaken in support of the work of the “Hong Kong Professional Services GoGlobal Platform” and the Expert Committee on Professional Services for Going Global? Please advise on the staffing and expenditure involved. Will performance indicators be set for the relevant work (e.g. the number of participating enterprises and the number of successful overseas expansions facilitated)?
2. Given that Hong Kong’s professional services sectors need to deepen their understanding of the affairs and legal practices in the Mainland in order to better serve the “going global” needs of Mainland enterprises, what are the Government’s plans and resource allocation to support and assist Hong Kong’s professional services sectors, including the legal, arbitration and mediation sectors?

Asked by: Hon CHOW Ho-ding, Holden (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

1. Initiated by the Department of Justice (DoJ), the Hong Kong Professional Services GoGlobal Platform (the Platform) was launched in December 2025 to support Mainland enterprises going global, with a focus on the following 2 major areas:
 - (i) integrating information related to Hong Kong’s professional services, thereby facilitating the precise connections between enterprises and Hong Kong’s professional services; and
 - (ii) enhancing the sector’s understanding of the specific needs of enterprises for professional services when expanding overseas and co-ordinating Hong Kong’s professional services to provide efficient support for these enterprises.

Moreover, the DoJ also places emphasis on collaborating with stakeholders from different sectors, and established the Expert Committee on Professional Services for Going Global (the Expert Committee) in January 2026. Chaired by the Deputy Secretary for Justice (DSJ), the Expert Committee comprises 13 members who are experts from the legal, financial, and accounting sectors from the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong, as well as outstanding business and corporate representatives, to provide strategic advice to support and promote the work of the Platform.

Specific activities and projects include:

Integrating information

The DoJ will strengthen ties with relevant bureaux and organisations, such as the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), the Law Society of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Bar Association to compile and publish success stories of supporting enterprises going global and consolidate information on professional services providers that support enterprises going global, to facilitate their enquiries and matching:

- (i) At the launch ceremony of the Platform, the DoJ officially released the inaugural edition of the “Collection of Success Stories: Hong Kong’s Professional Services Supporting Chinese Mainland Enterprises Going Global” (bilingual in Chinese and English) (the Collection). The Collection includes over 50 success stories spanning various professional domains, including legal, finance, accounting and dispute resolution, covering different industries and investment locations such as the emerging markets of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Middle East and Africa. These practical examples clearly demonstrate Hong Kong’s unique role as a “world-class springboard” and the strengths of its legal and other professional services to enterprises and stakeholders in the Chinese Mainland and beyond. The electronic version of the Collection has been uploaded to the DoJ’s website (https://www.doj.gov.hk/tc/publications/pdf/Go_Global_Success_Stories_Booklet_tc.pdf).

The Collection was well received upon its release, attracting positive responses from enterprises and the professional services sectors. The DoJ is preparing for the compilation of the 2nd edition of the Collection, which is expected to be released in mid-2026.

- (ii) In addition to the Collection, the DoJ will also invite in phases representatives from the professional services sector and enterprises going global to share their experiences, and will produce short videos to further promote Hong Kong’s unique role as a “springboard” for overseas expansion, thereby providing practical references for enterprises in various sectors interested in seeking a deeper understanding of Hong Kong’s legal and other professional services.

The 1st episode of the short video series, produced and uploaded to the DoJ’s website (https://www.doj.gov.hk/video/20260220dsj_blog.mp4), talks about the success of a Mainland-invested company in venturing into and gaining a foothold in the Indonesian market with the support of Hong Kong’s professional services.

- (iii) The DoJ will develop and publish panel lists of professional services providers in different fields supporting overseas expansion, to facilitate enterprises to connect with the professional services providers that best fit the types of professional services required and the industrial sectors of enterprises.

The above lists will be released by the DoJ and uploaded to the cross-sectoral professional services platform website operated by the HKTDC.

Understanding the specific needs of enterprises going global

The DoJ will continue liaising with relevant Mainland authorities, local people's governments at provincial and municipal levels, trade and industrial organisations at home and abroad, and representatives from enterprises to learn more about the diverse professional service needs of enterprises across various regions and sectors. For instance, during the China Conference: Southeast Asia 2026 in Jakarta in February 2026, the DSJ exchanged views and discussed with representatives from the China Chamber of Commerce in Indonesia to learn about the specific professional service needs of Mainland enterprises in different sectors (such as the chemical, energy and financial industries) in their course of "going global" and their successful experiences of leveraging the professional services platform of Hong Kong. These exchange activities provide important guidance for developing our future plans and refining our way forward.

Promotion and matching

The DoJ will continue publicising and promoting Hong Kong's professional services through relevant Mainland authorities, local people's governments at provincial and municipal levels and other channels, and providing a platform for Hong Kong's professional services sectors to share and connect with enterprises with potential or intent to "go global". For instance, the DSJ led a delegation of more than 40 representatives from cross-professional sectors to Qianhai, Shenzhen in December last year to exchange views with representatives from about 70 Mainland enterprises and industry associations, with a view to deepening the Mainland enterprises' understanding of the strengths of Hong Kong's professional services and promoting Hong Kong to be their preferred platform for going global.

The expenditure incurred for supporting the Platform is absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ. The DoJ reviews from time to time its manpower resources and will redeploy staff to handle the workload as operational needs require.

As mentioned above, the Platform is mainly established for facilitating the precise connections between enterprises and Hong Kong's professional services and coordinating Hong Kong's professional services to provide efficient support for enterprises. In practice, overseas expansion of enterprises involves various stages and modes, making it unsuitable to measure by a single standard. Moreover, legal and other professional services providers when serving Mainland enterprises may encounter matters involving commercial secrets, binding legal provisions, or other restrictions on disclosure in relation to the relevant projects and cases. As such, it is not appropriate

to require the service providers or enterprises to provide such information. In view of this, no performance indicators have been set for the relevant work.

2. The DoJ has been actively organising or supporting various capacity-building and exchange activities to facilitate professionals from the Hong Kong legal, arbitration and mediation sectors to deepen their understanding of Mainland affairs and legal practices, and to reinforce the impetus for their development. Relevant activities include:
 - (i) The DoJ organised seminars on the Arrangement Concerning Mutual Assistance in Court-ordered Interim Measures in Aid of Arbitral Proceedings by the Courts of the Mainland and of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the Arrangement) on 17 August 2021, 14 October 2022, 30 June 2023, 17 October 2023 and 18 November 2024 to discuss the benefits and changes brought to arbitration users following the implementation of the Arrangement, facilitate the sharing of practical experience among sectors, and discuss the way forward for the future development of mutual assistance between the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong in arbitration matters;
 - (ii) The DoJ actively supports the organisation of diverse professional training for Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) lawyers and the arrangement of practical training courses on Mainland law in collaboration with relevant Mainland organs to enhance the practical knowledge of GBA lawyers on Mainland law and the handling of civil and commercial matters in different areas by Mainland courts. Relevant training includes the 1st practical legal training course for GBA lawyers organised in Guangzhou in July 2024, and the 2 phases of intensive training on Mainland law and legal practice organised in Hong Kong in August 2024 and May 2025 respectively;
 - (iii) To promote the interface of non-litigation dispute resolution services in the GBA, the DoJ organised the GBA Mediator Training Course of Hong Kong on 16 August 2024, attracting about 400 participants. Mediation experts from Guangdong and Macao were invited to share information and insights on their respective mediation systems, cultures and experiences, explore the latest developments of cross-boundary dispute mediation in the GBA and the differences and integration of the mediation systems and cultures of the 3 places, and to jointly examine topics including the methods and skills in handling cross-boundary disputes;
 - (iv) The DoJ and the HKTDC co-organised a large-scale outreach promotional campaign titled “Resolve2Win” and brought the event to Shenzhen and Foshan in August 2024 to meet and discuss with the local political, business and legal sectors through conferences and exchange activities, promoting Hong Kong’s role as a legal hub and exploring new co-operation opportunities between the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong;
 - (v) In June 2025, the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy (the Academy) organised the 2-day Mainland Civil and Commercial Legal Practice Training Course, the 1st dedicated training course organised by the Academy for the local legal sector comprising barristers, solicitors, in-house counsel and dispute

resolution practitioners, to enhance understanding of the local legal community on Mainland civil and commercial law and its practical operation, thereby fostering the exchanges between legal and dispute resolution sectors in Hong Kong and the Mainland;

- (vi) On 21 July 2025, the DoJ, the China Law Society and the Legal Affairs Bureau of the Macao Special Administrative Region Government organised the 13th Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao Legal Seminar in Hong Kong. The seminar brought together legal experts from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, who, from the perspectives of the 3 places, discussed 4 key areas in depth, namely legislative co-ordination, data governance, intellectual property and financial disputes, in order to promote legal harmonisation and strengthen exchanges and co-operation in the legal sector among the 3 places;
- (vii) In December 2025, the DoJ organised the 1st GBA Lawyers Forum during the Hong Kong Legal Week 2025. Under the theme of “The Unique Advantage of ‘One Country, Two Systems, Three Jurisdictions’ - GBA Lawyers Facilitating Enterprises to Go Global”, major issues of concern to Mainland enterprises “going global” were explored, including financing, cross-boundary capital, legal risk management and prevention in cross-boundary investments and transactions, cross-boundary co-operation and protection of intellectual property and safeguarding property rights in emerging assets, as well as discussing how GBA lawyers could assist Mainland enterprises in “going global” ;
- (viii) In December 2025, the DSJ led a delegation of more than 40 representatives from various professional fields, including law and accounting, to Shenzhen. During the visit, they had exchanges with representatives from about 70 Mainland enterprises and industry associations to enhance understanding of Mainland enterprises on the advantages of Hong Kong’s professional services and increase knowledge of affairs and legal practices in the Mainland among the Hong Kong legal community; and
- (ix) The DoJ organised the biennial Mediation Week featuring a range of activities such as demonstrations and seminars to promote and foster the mediation culture, and showcase to local and international communities Hong Kong’s professional mediation services. The DoJ will organise the Mediation Week from 4 to 7 May 2026, and will support the International Organization for Mediation in hosting the Global Mediation Summit on 8 May 2026 to discuss and exchange views on hot topics in mediation. The Mediation Week and the Global Mediation Summit will explore a wide range of topics, including emerging mediation issues in the context of Hong Kong, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the international arena, bringing together mediators, policy-makers and leaders from around the world. By providing an exchange platform for the sector, these events foster the development of the local legal and mediation sectors, thereby supporting Hong Kong’s development and strengthening its unique position as the Global Mediation Capital.

The DoJ will review and assess the effectiveness of various activities from time to time, maintain communication with the legal sector to understand their practical needs and

issues of concern in supporting Mainland enterprises going global, and also organise or support events and training as appropriate.

The expenditures on the above initiatives are absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ and cannot be separately identified.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ016

(Question Serial No. 1260)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 170 of the Budget Speech that the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy has provided professional practical training for over 2 000 participants from various places. Given that the National 15th Five-year Plan provides strong support for Hong Kong's development into an international hub for high-calibre talents, a clear performance evaluation mechanism is needed to underpin the long-term development of the Academy. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Regarding the "over 2 000 participants" who have received training as mentioned above, please provide specific figures by category, including the actual numbers and proportion of local trainees, Mainland trainees and overseas trainees (especially those from countries along the Belt and Road).
- (2) What is the expenditure earmarked for the operation of the Academy, and what proportion of that is estimated for overseas promotion and inviting internationally renowned trainers in 2025-26?
- (3) Has the Academy set any specific key performance indicators (KPIs) on, for instance, the expected annual growth rate of non-local trainees for the next 3 years? Will it collaborate with top law schools overseas to organise internationally accredited specialised courses?

Asked by: Hon CHUANG Ka-pun, Albert (LegCo internal reference no.: 21)

Reply:

- (1) Since its launch in November 2024, the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy (the Academy) has provided professional practical training programmes in Hong Kong, the Chinese Mainland and overseas for over 2 000 participants from various places. While some of these programmes were specifically designed for the overseas, the Chinese Mainland or the local legal sector, other programmes, such as international conferences, brought together participants from all these places. The proportion of participants of the training programmes is set out below:

	Target participants of training programmes	Number of participants
1.	Specifically targeting overseas legal sector (including countries along the Belt and Road (B&R) from Southeast Asia and other regions)	About 150
2.	Specifically targeting Chinese Mainland legal sector	About 300
3.	Specifically targeting local legal sector	About 300
4.	Targeting overseas, Chinese Mainland and local legal sectors at the same time (including countries along the B&R from Southeast Asia and other regions)	About 1 500

- (2) The Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Office (the Training Office) is responsible for planning and organising capacity-building programmes of the Academy. At present, the establishment of the Training Office comprises 4 time-limited posts for a period of 5 years, including 1 time-limited post of Assistant Principal Government Counsel (DL1)/DL1-equivalent non-civil service position (i.e. Director of the Training Office). The annual salary cost of the post is \$2,088,840. The remaining 3 time-limited posts include 1 Senior Government Counsel post (i.e. Deputy Director of the Training Office), 1 Government Counsel post (i.e. Assistant Director of the Training Office) and 1 Law Clerk post (i.e. Programme Coordinator of the Training Office). The annual salary cost of these 3 non-directorate posts is \$3,303,360. The training programmes are supported by different units of the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the relevant personnel are concurrently responsible for other duties. As the Academy's operational expenditures for 2025-26, including the manpower and other related expenditures required for overseas promotion, inviting internationally renowned trainers, and organising and supporting legal talent training programmes were absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ, the specific amount cannot be separately identified. Given that the number of target participants of the training programmes offered by the Academy in 2025-26 will be similar to those listed in the table above, the proportion of expenditure to be incurred for overseas promotion and inviting internationally renowned trainers is expected to remain more or less the same.
- (3) Officially launched in November 2024, the Academy is still in its development stage and needs time to accumulate experience. The training outcomes of each programme are currently assessed through trainees' feedback via feedback forms. In the future, the Academy will actively collaborate with more legal bodies, countries and legal professional bodies to provide customised practical programmes on various legal topics, and will also regularly organise training courses for legal talents from different jurisdictions, with a view to providing training for more non-local legal professionals. The Academy will explore the feasibility of co-organising courses with top law schools overseas and setting pertinent performance indicators having regard to the actual needs, resources and manpower.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ017

(Question Serial No. 1261)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 157 of the Budget Speech that the Hong Kong Professional Services GoGlobal Platform (the Platform) initiated by the Department of Justice (DoJ) was officially launched at the end of last year to collaborate with the professional services sectors in supporting Mainland enterprises to go global with Hong Kong as their preferred platform. This policy spans multiple professional domains including law, accounting and financing, requiring a high degree of cross-departmental co-ordination to maximise its effectiveness. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Since the launch of the Platform at the end of last year, how many Mainland enterprises have been successfully matched or assisted? What are the major sectors and areas of professional services involved?
- (2) What is the expenditure earmarked by the DoJ in 2025-26 for promoting the Platform in key Mainland cities (such as those in the Greater Bay Area and the Yangtze River Delta Region)?
- (3) Given the cross-professional nature of the Platform, how does the DoJ co-ordinate resources with the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, Invest Hong Kong and Hong Kong Trade Development Council? Has the Government established any inter-departmental joint budget group or task force to avoid resource duplication and enhance administrative efficiency?

Asked by: Hon CHUANG Ka-pun, Albert (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

1. The initiatives of the Department of Justice (DoJ) in supporting enterprises going global mainly focus on 2 major areas:
 - (i) integrating information related to Hong Kong's professional services to facilitate the precise connections between enterprises and Hong Kong's professional services; and

- (ii) enhancing the sectors' understanding of the specific needs of enterprises for professional services when expanding overseas and co-ordinating Hong Kong's professional services to provide efficient support for these enterprises.

As part of its initiatives to support enterprises in going global, the DoJ collaborates with the professional services sectors to connect them with Mainland enterprises. For instance, the Deputy Secretary for Justice led a delegation of more than 40 representatives from cross-professional sectors to Qianhai, Shenzhen in December last year to exchange views with representatives from about 70 Mainland enterprises and industry associations, with a view to deepening the Mainland enterprises' understanding of the strengths of Hong Kong's professional services and promoting Hong Kong to be their preferred platform for going global.

Furthermore, we will compile and publish success stories of supporting enterprises going global, and consolidate information on professional services providers that support enterprises going global to facilitate their enquiries and matching. For instance, the inaugural edition of the "Collection of Success Stories: Hong Kong's Professional Services Supporting Chinese Mainland Enterprises Going Global" (bilingual in Chinese and English) was officially released at the launch ceremony of the Hong Kong Professional Services GoGlobal Platform (the Platform) held in December last year. The publication includes over 50 success stories spanning various professional domains, including legal, finance, accounting and dispute resolution, covering different industries and investment locations such as the emerging markets of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Middle East and Africa. These practical examples clearly demonstrate Hong Kong's unique role as a "world-class springboard" and the strengths of its legal and other professional services to industries and stakeholders in the Chinese Mainland and beyond. The electronic version of the publication has been uploaded to the DoJ's website (https://www.doj.gov.hk/tc/publications/pdf/Go_Global_Success_Stories_Booklet_tc.pdf).

We do not maintain statistics on projects or cases involving the matching of Hong Kong professional services providers with Mainland enterprises.

2. The expenditure incurred for supporting the Platform is absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ. The DoJ reviews from time to time its manpower resources and will redeploy staff to handle the workload as operational needs require.
3. The DoJ attaches great importance to collaborating with and supporting other bureaux/departments of the HKSAR Government to jointly take forward initiatives relating to "going global", with a view to providing a "safe passage" for enterprises and ensuring their successful global expansion.

The DoJ is a member of the Task Force on Supporting Mainland Enterprises in Going Global (GoGlobal Task Force) established by the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau in October 2025. The Hong Kong Trade Development Council serves on the Expert Committee on Professional Services for Going Global established by the DoJ to provide advice and support to the DoJ in advancing the relevant work.

All the relevant parties have been maintaining close communication on the respective roles and future work plans of the GoGlobal Task Force and the Platform.

On implementation, the GoGlobal Task Force, a one-stop platform for supporting Mainland enterprises going global, will directly engage with Mainland enterprises, serving as the pivotal point of contact for Mainland enterprises using Hong Kong as a “launchpad” to expand overseas. The Platform of the DoJ, serving as a hub that brings together Hong Kong’s cross-sector professional services to support enterprises going global, will promote and support the professional services sectors, empowering them to better respond to the needs of Mainland enterprises for professional services.

The GoGlobal Task Force and the Platform complement and collaborate closely with each other. They jointly promote the precise matching of the strengths of Hong Kong’s professional services with the needs of Mainland enterprises, creating a comprehensive ecosystem for going global.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ018

(Question Serial No. 1262)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

According to paragraph 156 of the Budget Speech and the relevant Programme under Head 92 Department of Justice, the Government has launched the Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution to advance Hong Kong's development as an international centre for sports dispute resolution. As sports disputes often involve complex issues on commercial sponsorships, intellectual property rights and athlete contracts, establishing a professional sports arbitration mechanism is crucial for the development of the international sports industry in Hong Kong. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Please provide details on the specific operating budget and dedicated staffing for the Pilot Scheme in 2025-26. How many arbitrators and mediators on the relevant existing panels in Hong Kong are professionally qualified in handling international sports disputes?
- (2) Please advise on the specific evaluation indicators (e.g. the expected number of cases to be handled in the first year) set for the Pilot Scheme. Will the Government consider incorporating clauses that require the use of the said mechanism or encourage its use for resolving internal or commercial disputes in subvention agreements for providing funding support to local national sports associations?
- (3) In view of the shortage of professionals, will the Government allocate any dedicated funds in the coming year for possible collaboration with local universities or the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) to provide training for relevant professionals?

Asked by: Hon CHUANG Ka-pun, Albert (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

- (1) The operating funds for the Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution (the Pilot Scheme) in 2025-26 are met by the Department of Justice (DoJ) with its own provision and are mainly used for promoting the Pilot Scheme.

As for staff establishment, the work on taking forward the Pilot Scheme is mainly supported by the Alternative Dispute Resolution Unit of the DoJ. The establishment of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Unit is as follows:

Unit	Existing establishment
Alternative Dispute Resolution Unit	1 Principal Government Counsel, 1 Deputy Principal Government Counsel, 6 Senior Government Counsel, 8 Government Counsel, 3 Law Clerks, 2 Personal Secretaries I, 1 Personal Secretary II and 2 Assistant Clerical Officers

As the work on taking forward the Pilot Scheme is undertaken by the above officers among their other duties, the actual expenditure/manpower involved cannot be separately identified.

The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre (AALCO-HKRAC) and eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre Limited (eBRAM) serve as the administering body and the technology provider respectively for the Pilot Scheme, which has been accepting applications for mediation and arbitration of sports disputes since 13 February 2026. At present, there are 53 mediators and 43 arbitrators on the panels of sports mediators and sports arbitrators respectively under the Pilot Scheme, including those from the local legal and sports sectors and dispute resolution practitioners from 23 jurisdictions, as well as experienced experts in international sports mediation and arbitration. Among them, 19 mediators and 20 arbitrators come from jurisdictions outside Hong Kong. AALCO-HKRAC will continue to process applications for inclusion on the panels and update the panels accordingly.

- (2) Given that the Pilot Scheme is still in its early phase of implementation, it is not possible at this stage to estimate the number of cases to be handled in the first year. The Pilot Scheme will run for 2 years and will be reviewed in due course. Meanwhile, the DoJ will collaborate with the legal and sports sectors (including the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China) to actively take forward the publicity and promotion of sports dispute resolution in order to foster the use of sports mediation and arbitration in Hong Kong, and encourage the sports industry (including local national sports associations and athletes) to make full use of the Pilot Scheme to effectively resolve sports disputes.
- (3) Hong Kong is home to a large pool of legal and dispute resolution talents with extensive expertise and experience. In the area of sports dispute resolution, as of 6 March 2026, there were a total of 110 arbitrators with expertise in sports on the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre’s panel and list of arbitrators, and 153 mediators with expertise in sports on the Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited’s panel of mediators.

The DoJ has been actively organising and supporting talent training on sports dispute resolution and will continue to promote the development of sports dispute resolution in collaboration with the legal and sports sectors, thereby advancing Hong Kong’s development as an international centre for sports dispute resolution. Efforts made by

the DoJ in this regard include co-organising the Sports Arbitration Demonstration with the Hong Kong Bar Association and Hong Kong Baptist University on 9 October 2025; and serving as a supporting organisation of the 1st and 2nd AALCO Sports Mediation Training Programmes held in January and September 2025 respectively, and eBRAM's Certified Online Dispute Resolution Training Course (Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution Special Session) on 11 and 25 February 2026. Besides, the DoJ will organise a sports mediation seminar during the Mediation Week in May 2026 and a sports dispute resolution workshop in the 2nd quarter of 2026.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ019

(Question Serial No. 2357)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

According to relevant content in paragraphs 28(c) and 153 of the Budget Speech, the Government is preparing for the development of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building (the Building) as a new landmark of international legal hub. In view of the intense competition in the international arbitration market from neighbouring regions, it is necessary for Hong Kong to strengthen its appeal in terms of its hardware and software capabilities. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Please advise on the specific estimated expenditure earmarked for the preparatory work for the Building. How long is the preparatory work expected to take? What is the timeline for completing the entire project, and how many international legal and dispute resolution services institutions are expected to be housed?
- (2) What was the total amount of resources deployed by the Government for promoting Hong Kong's arbitration services overseas in the past 3 financial years? How many international arbitration or dispute resolution institutions were successfully attracted to set up offices in Hong Kong in that period?
- (3) To enhance competitiveness, will the Government establish a dedicated fund or provide rent waiver/rent concessions to attract top global arbitration institutions to move into the new Building? What is the estimate in this regard?

Asked by: Hon CHUANG Ka-pun, Albert (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

1. The Department of Justice (DoJ) is preparing for the development of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building (the Building). Preparatory works, which will commence within this year with relevant expenses to be covered by the block allocation under Capital Works Reserve Fund, will be completed as soon as practicable in preparation for seeking funding approval for the construction project. Upon securing the funding, our target is to commence construction by the end of 2027. As the project is still in the planning and study stage, other specific details such as the completion

schedule and the expected number of international legal and dispute resolution services institutions to be housed are not available at this stage.

2. In the past 3 financial years, the DoJ continued to make use of existing resources to promote Hong Kong's legal and dispute resolution services (including Hong Kong's arbitration services) overseas, such as organising international conferences and exchanges, etc., and leading the legal and dispute resolution sectors to visit the Middle East, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states and Europe.

From 2023 to 2025, the DoJ led delegations of professionals from legal and other sectors to visit ASEAN member states, the Middle East, Europe and other countries to promote the strengths of and opportunities for Hong Kong's legal and dispute resolution services, foster a deeper understanding among the sectors of the views and needs of stakeholders in the above places on Hong Kong's legal and dispute resolution services, and explore new opportunities for the sectors.

Regarding countries in the Middle East, the Deputy Secretary for Justice (DSJ) led a delegation of legal and dispute resolution sectors to visit Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in early March 2024 and participated in the Riyadh International Disputes Week, so as to promote Hong Kong's strengths in legal and dispute resolution services. In May 2024, the Secretary for Justice (SJ) led a delegation of legal and dispute resolution sectors and other related sectors to visit Middle Eastern countries to assist these sectors in exploring opportunities under the Belt and Road Initiative.

Regarding ASEAN member states and the Asia regions:

- i. In July 2024, the SJ visited Singapore and attended the inaugural Forum of Chief Legal Advisors organised by the Attorney-General's Chambers of Singapore to discuss international investment dispute resolution and other topics. The SJ also attended a roundtable meeting to exchange views with over 20 representatives from other jurisdictions on international legal and dispute resolution services and promote to participants the strengths of and opportunities for Hong Kong's legal services.
- ii. In September 2024, the SJ led a delegation of legal and dispute resolution sectors to visit ASEAN member states (including Brunei, Vietnam and Malaysia) to enhance exchanges and co-operation between Hong Kong and the relevant regions.
- iii. In February 2025, the SJ visited Malaysia again to attend the China Conference: Southeast Asia and associated activities held in Kuala Lumpur. During a fireside chat session at the Conference, the SJ shared views on how Hong Kong, leveraging its unique advantages under "One Country, Two Systems", plays its role as a "super connector" in fostering ties between the Mainland and various regions, including Southeast Asia through its top-notch legal services.
- iv. In October 2025, the SJ visited Korea to explore ways of strengthening legal co-operation between Hong Kong and Korea with the local legal sector, and also attended a joint legal workshop co-organised by the two places.

- v. In February 2026, the DSJ visited Jakarta, Indonesia to attend the China Conference: Southeast Asia, at which he shared views on how Hong Kong plays its role as a “super connector” in fostering ties and co-operation between the Chinese Mainland and various regions, including Southeast Asia, by leveraging its unique advantages under “One Country, Two Systems”, the robust rule of law environment based on common law, and its top-notch legal, financial and other professional services.

As for Europe, the SJ visited the Netherlands, France and Italy in July 2025 and met with international organisations, judges from the International Court of Justice, government officials and local business communities to promote Hong Kong’s legal system and services and its latest development as an international legal and dispute resolution centre. During the visit, the DoJ organised a Hong Kong legal services seminar in Paris, France on 8 July 2025 to showcase Hong Kong’s advantages in its legal services, arbitration system and other areas.

The DoJ is committed to driving law-related organisations (LROs) and dispute resolution institutions internationally, regionally and beyond to establish their presence in Hong Kong. Officially opened on 2 November 2020, the Hong Kong Legal Hub provides office accommodation for LROs, dispute resolution institutions and other organisations in the former Central Government Offices, the former French Mission Building and part of Two Exchange Square. At present, over 20 international and local LROs, including the Hague Conference on Private International Law Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the DoJ Project Office for Collaboration with UNCITRAL, etc. have established their presence at the Hong Kong Legal Hub. International arbitration or dispute resolution institutions with offices established in Hong Kong in the past 3 years include the International Organization for Mediation, Shanghai International Arbitration Center and Beijing International Arbitration Court.

3. The DoJ is currently preparing for the development of the Building. Relevant arrangements and information regarding the move-in of legal and dispute resolution services institutions to the Building will be announced in a timely manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ020

(Question Serial No. 1213)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

Regarding the expenditure involved in handling judicial review (JR) cases, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

What was the total expenditure of the Government on handling all the JR cases in the past 3 years? Please provide a breakdown by the following categories:

1. **All JR cases:**

- (a) the costs paid to briefed-out counsel and solicitors representing the Government;
- (b) the costs paid to applicants as a result of adverse rulings or settlement;
- (c) the manpower and expenditure involved in handling such cases by internal staff of the Department of Justice (DoJ);
- (d) other related administrative expenses;

2. **JR cases concerning fundamental human rights:**

- (a) the costs paid to briefed-out counsel and solicitors representing the Government;
- (b) the costs paid to applicants as a result of adverse rulings or settlement;
- (c) the manpower and expenditure involved in handling such cases by internal staff of the DoJ;
- (d) other related administrative expenses.

Asked by: Hon FAN Hoi-kit, Alex (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

As of 31 December 2025, the expenditures incurred by the Civil Division of the Department of Justice (DoJ) in handling judicial review (JR) cases, excluding JR cases relating to non-refoulement claims, filed in the past 3 years are approximately as follows (Note 1):

Year of filing	Briefed-out counsel fees paid by the Government (Note 2)		Costs paid to other parties to the proceedings	
	All JR cases (\$)	JR cases concerning fundamental human rights (\$) (Note 3)	All JR cases (\$)	JR cases concerning fundamental human rights (\$) (Note 3)
2023	15,757,000	4,836,000	1,386,000	1,040
2024	8,355,000	4,784,000	234,000	2,080
2025	2,263,000	1,818,000	99,000	0

Note 1: The above expenses cover JR cases filed in the past 3 years and their subsequent appeals (if any).

Note 2: The Civil Division did not engage any outside solicitors to handle JR cases.

Note 3: The classification is based on the contents of the Form No. 86 of the cases obtained in the Court of First Instance or subsequently served by the applicant(s), which expressly refer to human rights guaranteed by the Basic Law or the Hong Kong Bill of Rights.

The staff of the Civil Division of the DoJ handle various types of civil cases. We do not maintain a separate breakdown on the manpower, expenditure or other administrative expenses involved in handling JR cases by our staff.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ021

(Question Serial No. 1214)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 153 of the Budget Speech that the Department of Justice is preparing for the development of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building and the preparatory works will commence this year. What is the total estimated expenditure involved? What is the provision for preparatory works (including design, site investigation and invitation of tender) in 2026-27? When is the entire project expected to be completed and what is the total estimated cost?

Asked by: Hon FAN Hoi-kit, Alex (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

The Department of Justice is preparing for the development of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building. Preparatory works, including site investigation and consultancy studies, will commence within this year in preparation for seeking funding approval for the construction project. Expenditure of the preparatory works will be funded under the block allocation of Capital Works Reserve Fund. Upon securing the funding for the project, our target is to commence construction by the end of 2027. As the project is still in the planning and study stage, other specific details such as the expenditure and completion schedule are not yet available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ022

(Question Serial No. 1215)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

The Department of Justice has launched a number of local training programmes, including conducting the Professional Exchange Programme since 2019, co-organising with Tsinghua University the course titled “The Fundamental Principles of Chinese Law”, and offering the Understudy Programme (Civil/Prosecution Work) and the Prosecution on Fiat Training Programme. Moreover, the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy co-organised with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law the Conference on Climate Change and International Trade Law in March 2025, and organised the Mainland Civil and Commercial Legal Practice Training Course for local lawyers and the dispute resolution sector in June 2025. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What was the total expenditure for the above local training programmes and how many people participated over the past 3 years?
2. Will there be any training and development programmes designed for local lawyers and mediators in the next 3 years? If yes, what are the estimated expenditure and the number of trainees involved?

Asked by: Hon FAN Hoi-kit, Alex (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

1. The numbers of participants in the above local training programmes/initiatives over the past 3 years are set out below:

	<u>Training programmes/initiatives</u>	<u>Number of participants</u>
(i)	Professional Exchange Programme	About 10
(ii)	Fundamental Principles of Chinese Law Course	Over 150
(iii)	Understudy Programme (Civil/Prosecution Work)	About 160

The Prosecutions Division maintains close collaboration with the Hong Kong Advocacy Training Council and the 2 legal professional bodies to regularly organise the Prosecution on Fiat Training Programme, with each cohort comprising about 30 local lawyers. The Conference on Climate Change and International Trade Law, organised by the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy (Academy) in March 2025, was attended by about 300 participants, both in person and online, from approximately 70 jurisdictions in the Asia-Pacific region, the Middle East, Latin America, Europe and Africa. The 2-day Mainland Civil and Commercial Legal Practice Training Course organised in June 2025 attracted about 300 local legal practitioners.

Expenditures for the above training programmes/initiatives are absorbed by the existing resources of the Department of Justice (DoJ). This includes professional fees in the sum of about \$3 million for engaging barristers and solicitors who received training under the Understudy Programme (Civil/Prosecution Work) over the past 3 years. Apart from that, other expenses cannot be separately identified.

2. The projected number of participants in the training and development programmes/initiatives designed for local lawyers and mediators over the next 3 years is as follows:

- The DoJ will continue to offer the Professional Exchange Programme and Fundamental Principles of Chinese Law Course (projected number of participants to be confirmed) as appropriate, taking into account actual circumstances such as training needs and DoJ's internal resource allocation. Moreover, the DoJ will continue to organise the Understudy Programme (Civil/Prosecution Work) and the Prosecution on Fiat Training Programme, with trainee numbers expected to be comparable to those of the past 3 years.
- In addition, the DoJ has been actively providing training for local lawyers and mediators through organising or supporting a diverse range of activities and programmes. These include:
 - (i) Regarding the provision of training for sports mediators, the DoJ served as a supporting organisation for the 1st and 2nd Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) Sports Mediation Training Programmes held in January and September 2025 respectively, which provided professional training for 86 participants in total. The DoJ also co-organised the Sports Arbitration Demonstration with the Hong Kong Bar Association and Hong Kong Baptist University on 9 October 2025. The DoJ will continue to support the legal sector and the sports industry in providing training in sports mediation and arbitration, including the 3rd AALCO Sports Mediation Training Programme held in March 2026, with a view to promoting the development of sports mediation and arbitration in Hong Kong;

Other regular activities

- (ii) The DoJ plans to continue to co-organise the Hong Kong Mediation Lecture with Herbert Smith Freehills during the Hong Kong Legal Week, inviting

internationally renowned speakers to share insights on various mediation topics. The lecture attracts local lawyers and mediators and enhances their understanding of the international development of mediation. This enables the local sectors to seize opportunities for overseas development and cross-boundary dispute resolution, and provides a platform for exchange between local and international mediation sectors;

- (iii) The DoJ will organise the Mediation Week 2026 from 4 to 7 May 2026, and will support the International Organization for Mediation (IOMed) in hosting the Global Mediation Summit on 8 May 2026 to discuss and exchange views on hot topics in mediation. The Mediation Week and the Global Mediation Summit will explore a wide range of topics, including emerging mediation issues in the context of Hong Kong, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the international arena, bringing together mediators, policy-makers and leaders from around the world. By providing an exchange platform for the sector, these events foster the development of the local legal and mediation sectors, thereby supporting Hong Kong's development and strengthening its unique position as the Global Mediation Capital;
 - (iv) The DoJ will continue to organise the biennial "Mediate First" Pledge Event with the aim of encouraging all sectors of the community to explore the use of mediation to resolve disputes before resorting to other means of dispute resolution or litigation. The "Mediate First" Pledge Event will enhance the general public's understanding and use of mediation, thereby promoting the development of the local legal and mediation sectors. The next edition of "Mediate First" Pledge Event will be held in May 2027;
 - (v) The DoJ plans to continue to co-organise with the Vis East Moot Foundation Limited the Vis East International Commercial Arbitration Moot to foster research in international commercial arbitration and to nurture professionals specialising in this area, thereby further promoting international and Hong Kong-seated arbitration services; and
 - (vi) The DoJ plans to continue to co-organise with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council thematic breakout sessions on dispute resolution at the Belt and Road Summit and the Business of Intellectual Property Asia Forum.
- The Academy will also continue to provide different kinds of capacity-building programmes for the local legal and dispute resolution sectors. Examples of such initiatives this year include: continuing to organise relevant courses such as the Mainland Civil and Commercial Legal Practice Training Course; collaborating with the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to co-organise the 2nd Edition of "Belt and Road" Visit for Hong Kong Young International Legal Talents; and organising international legal conferences during the Hong Kong Legal Week.

- Furthermore, with the support of the Central Government, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has put in place secondment arrangements with a number of international organisations, including the secondment programmes to the Hague Conference on Private International Law, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and IOMed. The HKSAR Government will continue to take forward the secondment programmes, which enable local legal professionals from both the public and private sectors to participate in the work of these international organisations, thereby deepening their understanding of the operations of such organisations and international law.

As the expenditure for the above training and development programmes/initiatives will continue to be absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ, it cannot be separately identified.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ023

(Question Serial No. 1216)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 157 of the Budget Speech that the Hong Kong Professional Services GoGlobal Platform (the Platform) initiated by the Department of Justice was officially launched at the end of last year to collaborate with the professional services sectors in supporting Mainland enterprises to go global with Hong Kong as their preferred platform. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What specific measures have been introduced to support Mainland enterprises in going global via Hong Kong following the establishment of the Platform?
2. What are the administrative expenditure and staffing involved in building the cross-sectoral professional services platform in collaboration with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council?
3. How do the Platform and the Task Force on Supporting Mainland Enterprises in Going Global of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau divide their responsibilities and collaborate? What is the expenditure involved in the co-ordination of their work?

Asked by: Hon FAN Hoi-kit, Alex (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

1. The initiatives of the Department of Justice (DoJ) in supporting enterprises going global mainly focus on 2 major areas:
 - (i) integrating information related to Hong Kong's professional services to facilitate the precise connections between enterprises and Hong Kong's professional services; and
 - (ii) enhancing the sectors' understanding of the specific needs of enterprises for professional services when expanding overseas and co-ordinating Hong Kong's professional services to provide efficient support for these enterprises.

Integrating information

The DoJ will strengthen ties with relevant bureaux and organisations, such as the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), the Law Society of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Bar Association to compile and publish success stories of supporting enterprises going global and consolidate information on professional services providers that support enterprises going global, to facilitate their enquiries and matching:

- (i) At the launch ceremony of the Hong Kong Professional Services GoGlobal Platform (the Platform), the DoJ officially released the inaugural edition of the “Collection of Success Stories: Hong Kong’s Professional Services Supporting Chinese Mainland Enterprises Going Global” (bilingual in Chinese and English) (the Collection). The publication includes over 50 success stories spanning various professional domains, including legal, finance, accounting and dispute resolution, covering different industries and investment locations such as the emerging markets of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Middle East and Africa. These practical examples clearly demonstrate Hong Kong’s unique role as a “world-class springboard” and the strengths of its legal and other professional services to enterprises and stakeholders in Chinese Mainland and beyond. The electronic version of the publication has been uploaded to the DoJ’s website (https://www.doj.gov.hk/tc/publications/pdf/Go_Global_Success_Stories_Booklet_tc.pdf).

The Collection was well received upon its release, attracting positive responses from enterprises and the professional services sectors. The DoJ is preparing for the compilation of the 2nd edition of the Collection, which is expected to be released in mid-2026.

- (ii) In addition to the Collection, the DoJ will also invite in phases representatives from the professional services sectors and enterprises going global to share their experiences, and will produce short videos to further promote Hong Kong’s unique role as a “springboard” for overseas expansion, thereby providing practical references for enterprises in various sectors interested in seeking a deeper understanding of Hong Kong’s legal and other professional services.

The 1st episode of the short video series, produced and uploaded to the DoJ’s website (https://www.doj.gov.hk/video/20260220dsj_blog.mp4), talks about the success of a Mainland-invested company in venturing into and gaining a foothold in the Indonesian market with the support of Hong Kong’s professional services.

- (iii) The DoJ will compile and publish panel lists of professional services providers in different fields supporting overseas expansion, to facilitate enterprises to connect with the professional services providers that best fit the types of professional services required and the industrial sectors of enterprises.

The above lists will be released by the DoJ and uploaded to the cross-sectoral professional services platform website operated by the HKTDC.

Understanding the specific needs of enterprises going global

The DoJ will continue liaising with relevant Mainland authorities, local people's governments at provincial and municipal levels, trade and industrial organisations at home and abroad, and representatives from enterprises to learn more about the diverse professional service needs of enterprises across various regions and sectors. For instance, during the China Conference: Southeast Asia 2026 in Jakarta in February 2026, the Deputy Secretary for Justice (DSJ) exchanged views and discussed with representatives from the China Chamber of Commerce in Indonesia to learn about the specific professional service needs of Mainland enterprises in different sectors (such as the chemical, energy and financial industries) in their course of "going global" and their successful experiences of leveraging the professional services platform of Hong Kong. These exchange activities provide important guidance for developing our future plans and refining our way forward.

Promotion and matching

The DoJ will continue publicising and promoting Hong Kong's professional services through relevant Mainland authorities, local people's governments at provincial and municipal levels and other channels, and providing a platform for Hong Kong's professional services sectors to share and connect with enterprises with potential or intent to "go global". For instance, the DSJ led a delegation of more than 40 representatives from cross-professional sectors to Qianhai, Shenzhen in December last year to exchange views with representatives from about 70 Mainland enterprises and industry associations, with a view to deepening the Mainland enterprises' understanding of the strengths of Hong Kong's professional services and promoting Hong Kong to be their preferred platform for going global.

2. The DoJ will compile and publish panel lists of professional services providers in different fields supporting overseas expansion, to facilitate enterprises to connect with the professional services providers that best fit the types of professional services required and the industrial sectors of enterprises.

The above lists will be released by the DoJ and uploaded to the cross-sectoral professional services platform website operated by the HKTDC.

The expenditure incurred for supporting the Platform is absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ. The DoJ reviews from time to time its manpower resources and will redeploy staff to handle the workload as operational needs require.

3. The DoJ attaches great importance to collaborating with and supporting other bureaux/departments of the HKSAR Government to jointly take forward initiatives relating to "going global", with a view to providing a "safe passage" for enterprises and ensuring their successful global expansion.

The DoJ is a member of the Task Force on Supporting Mainland Enterprises in Going Global (GoGlobal Task Force) established by the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau in October 2025. Another member of the GoGlobal Task Force, the HKTDC, also serves on the Expert Committee on Professional Services for Going

Global established by the DoJ to provide advice and support to the DoJ in advancing the relevant work. The DoJ maintains communication with the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau as well as other organisations on the work of the Platform and the GoGlobal Task Force.

The GoGlobal Task Force, a one-stop platform for supporting Mainland enterprises going global, will directly engage with Mainland enterprises, serving as the pivotal point of contact for Mainland enterprises using Hong Kong as a “launchpad” to expand overseas. The Platform of the DoJ, serving as a hub that brings together Hong Kong’s cross-sector professional services to support enterprises going global, will promote and support the professional services sectors, empowering them to better respond to the needs of Mainland enterprises for professional services. The GoGlobal Task Force and the Platform complement and collaborate closely with each other. They jointly promote the precise matching of the strengths of Hong Kong’s professional services with the needs of Mainland enterprises, creating a comprehensive ecosystem for going global. The manpower and expenditure for liaison and co-ordination with the GoGlobal Task Force are absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ024

(Question Serial No. 2341)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 156 of the Budget speech that the Government has launched the Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution to advance Hong Kong's development as an international centre for sports dispute resolution. What is the estimated expenditure on the Pilot Scheme for 2026-27? The Scheme, adopting a "mediation first, arbitration next" approach, provides eligible cases with government subsidy on a reimbursement basis to cover the costs and fees of proceedings. Parties are only required to share a registration fee of \$3,000 on an equal basis. What is the projected number of subsidised cases in 2026-27, and what percentage of them will involve non-commercial sports disputes?

Asked by: Hon FAN Hoi-kit, Alex (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre and eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre Limited serve as the administering body and the technology provider respectively for the Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution (the Pilot Scheme), which has been accepting applications for mediation and arbitration of sports disputes since 13 February 2026 and adopts a "mediation first, arbitration next" approach to resolve commercial and non-commercial sports disputes.

The Government has proposed to earmark a provision of about \$4 million in the estimates for 2026-27 for implementing the Pilot Scheme, covering a government subsidy of up to \$60,000 for each eligible case (the annual total amount of government subsidy is subject to a cap set for the same year) and the expenditure on publicity and promotion.

Given that the Pilot Scheme is still in its early phase of implementation, it is not possible at this stage to estimate the number of subsidised cases. Government subsidies granted under the Pilot Scheme currently cover only non-commercial sports disputes. The Department of Justice will actively take forward the publicity and promotion of sports dispute resolution in collaboration with the legal and sports sectors (including the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China) in order to foster the use of sports mediation and arbitration

in Hong Kong and encourage the sports industry (including local national sports associations and athletes) to make full use of the Pilot Scheme to effectively resolve sports disputes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ025

(Question Serial No. 3046)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

Since its establishment in 2024, the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy (the Academy) has provided training for over 2 000 legal and judicial practitioners. Regarding the expenditure and training and development programmes of the Academy, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What was the total expenditure incurred by the Academy on its training programmes over the past 2 years?
2. What are the Academy's operating expenses and estimate for its training programmes in 2026-27?
3. What is the projected number of participants for the Academy's training programmes and how are they expected to be distributed (from Hong Kong, the Mainland, Belt and Road regions and other jurisdictions)?

Asked by: Hon FAN Hoi-kit, Alex (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

(1)

Since its launch in November 2024, the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy (the Academy) has collaborated with more than 20 international legal organisations, relevant Mainland authorities, local professional bodies, etc. in organising over 20 capacity-building programmes within and outside Hong Kong for legal professionals in Hong Kong, the Mainland and regions along the Belt and Road (B&R), providing training for more than 2 000 participants around the globe. The Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Office (the Training Office) is responsible for planning and organising capacity-building programmes of the Academy. At present, the establishment of the Training Office comprises 4 time-limited posts for a period of 5 years, including 1 time-limited post of Assistant Principal Government Counsel (DL1)/DL1-equivalent non-civil service position (i.e. Director of the Training Office). The annual salary cost of the post is \$2,088,840. The remaining 3 time-limited posts include 1 Senior Government

Counsel post (i.e. Deputy Director of the Training Office), 1 Government Counsel post (i.e. Assistant Director of the Training Office) and 1 Law Clerk post (i.e. Programme Coordinator of the Training Office). The annual salary cost of these 3 non-directorate posts is \$3,303,360. The training programmes are supported by different units of the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the relevant personnel are concurrently responsible for other duties. As the Academy's expenditures for the past 2 years, including the manpower and other related expenditures required for overseas promotion, inviting internationally renowned trainers, and organising and supporting legal talent training programmes were absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ, the specific operating expenses of the Academy cannot be separately identified.

The proportion of participants of the training programmes is set out below:

	Target participants of training programmes	Number of participants
1.	Specifically targeting overseas legal sector (including countries along the B&R from Southeast Asia and other regions)	About 150
2.	Specifically targeting Chinese Mainland legal sector	About 300
3.	Specifically targeting local legal sector	About 300
4.	Targeting overseas, Chinese Mainland and local legal sectors at the same time (including countries along the B&R from Southeast Asia and other regions)	About 1 500

(2) & (3)

The operation and training programmes of the Academy for 2026-27 are expected to be similar to those listed in the table above, with relevant expenditures absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ. In addition, the Academy will actively collaborate with more legal bodies, countries and legal professional bodies to provide customised practical programmes on various legal topics, and will also regularly organise training courses for legal talents from different jurisdictions to deepen international co-operation, with a view to increasing the number of trainees and expanding the distribution of target participants to cover more legal and professional talents in Hong Kong, the Chinese Mainland, countries along the B&R and other jurisdictions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ026

(Question Serial No. 2018)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (1) Prosecutions

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

Please list the expenditures, including internal expenses and briefing-out expenditure, incurred by the Department of Justice to date for the following cases:

1. The case involving Lai Chee-ying, founder of Next Digital Limited, and related companies, convicted of “conspiracy to collude with a foreign country or with external elements to endanger national security”, “conspiracy to print, publish, offer for sale, distribute, display and/or reproduce seditious publications” and other charges;
2. The case involving Lai Chee-ying, other individuals, and companies, suspected of breaching the lease agreement with the Tseung Kwan O Industrial Estate and defrauding the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation;
3. The case involving 47 individuals, associated with the “mutual destruction camp”, suspected of “conspiracy to commit subversion”;
4. Following the court’s final decisions on these 3 cases, will the Government consider producing accurate and easy-to-understand multilingual information packs or even short videos on the basic facts, trial procedures, judgments of the judges, legal principles and justifications, etc. concerning these 3 cases, for use in national security education, rule of law education, public communication and rebutting rumours?

Asked by: Hon FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

1-3

The prosecution of the above cases is handled by existing staff of the Department of Justice (DoJ) among their other duties. The internal expenses for individual cases therefore cannot be separately identified.

The DoJ is dedicated to promoting rule of law and national security education to comprehensively enhance the awareness of national security across all sectors of the community, and to inspire the public to consciously safeguard national security, respect the rule of law, and understand and abide by the law in their daily lives. Working together with different sectors of the community, we strive to uphold the core value of the rule of law and build a solid shield for the HKSAR to safeguard national security.

There are still misconceptions in the international community about the laws on safeguarding national security in Hong Kong and even deliberate smears, distortions and attacks launched by external forces with ulterior motives. In response, the DoJ and other departments of the HKSAR Government will make full use of different channels to proactively communicate with the public and refute the unfounded criticisms.

The DoJ published the English and Chinese versions of the Annotations of the Hong Kong National Security Law and Sedition Offences in the Crimes Ordinance (the Annotations) in December 2023 and June 2024 respectively. We strive to update the Annotations from time to time to keep the public abreast of the latest developments of the Hong Kong National Security Law and other relevant laws and cases. The document is available on the dedicated website and will be updated from time to time for public reference.

In addition to the National Security Legal Forums held in 2021, 2022 and 2024, the DoJ, with the staunch support from the Central Government, coordinated the 5th Anniversary of Promulgation and Implementation of Hong Kong National Security Law Forum in 2025. Organised by the HKSAR Government, the event aimed to deepen public understanding of national security and related laws, and foster a more proactive commitment to safeguarding national security. Speeches delivered and discussions held on the above forums have been compiled, translated and published on the DoJ's website for public reference.

The DoJ also regularly organises educational activities, produces teaching materials, and issues publications on the rule of law and national security. Beyond these efforts, we advise other bureaux and departments on their implementation of similar initiatives. These activities, teaching materials, and publications will be updated as appropriate in light of the latest developments in the relevant legal systems and judicial cases to facilitate the rule of law and national security education. Furthermore, we assist the Security Bureau and the Radio Television Hong Kong in producing special TV programmes, such as "National Security Law – the Cornerstone of Prosperity and Stability", and "NSL Chronicles", to introduce national security cases and knowledge relating to national security laws to the public in a simple and easy-to-understand way.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ027

(Question Serial No. 3290)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (2) Civil

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

The 2024 Policy Address announced the establishment of a sports dispute resolution system aimed at promoting sports arbitration services, and officially launched a 2-year Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution (the Pilot Scheme). These initiatives leverage Hong Kong's strengths as an international legal and dispute resolution services hub in the Asia-Pacific region to enhance Hong Kong's influence in international sports and to support the country's goal of becoming a leading sports power. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Please provide, in tabular format, details of the estimated expenditure, resource allocation, staffing support, and major annual expenditure items of the Pilot Scheme. Is there a review mechanism in place to comprehensively evaluate the Pilot Scheme's effectiveness and operation on a timely basis? Has the Government considered regularisation of the Pilot Scheme to provide stable support for promoting professional sports arbitration services in Hong Kong?
2. Given that the designated online platform for sports dispute resolution under the Pilot Scheme was officially launched on 13 February 2026, please provide specific information on its operation to date, including the number of applications received, types of disputes handled, progress of case resolution, and staffing and technical support resources required to maintain its operation.
3. Regarding the development of a talent pool of arbitrators and mediators, sports disputes encompass a broad range of areas, including disputes between athletes and national sports associations, commercial broadcasting rights, and contractual disputes. To develop a talent pool of internationally-oriented sports arbitrators, will the Government consider organising specialised certificate training programmes for those engaged in the sports industry and retired athletes to nurture local sports professionals equipped with expertise in arbitration and sports law? If yes, please provide information on the preliminary arrangements, financial resources to be allocated, and timetable for such training programmes. If not, please explain the reasons and what alternative measures will be taken.

4. Regarding publicity, industry communication and promotional efforts, what proactive measures has the Government taken to publicise and explain the Pilot Scheme to stakeholders (including national sports associations, athletes, those engaged in the sports industry, and the general public)? Please provide details on the related activities, target coverage, expenditure on publicity and evaluation of effectiveness. How will the Government enhance awareness of the sports industry, so as to improve uptake of the Pilot Scheme and promote the healthy development of Hong Kong’s sports industry?

Asked by: Hon FOK Kai-kong, Kenneth (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

1. The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre (AALCO-HKRAC) and eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre Limited (eBRAM) serve as the administering body and the technology provider respectively for the Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution (the Pilot Scheme), which has been accepting applications for mediation and arbitration of sports disputes since 13 February 2026 and adopts a “mediation first, arbitration next” approach to resolve commercial and non-commercial sports disputes. The Pilot Scheme will run for 2 years and will be reviewed in due course to comprehensively evaluate its effectiveness and operation, and to consider whether it should be regularised.

The budgetary arrangements for the Pilot Scheme are as follows:

Year	Budgetary arrangements
2025-26	The operating funds for the Pilot Scheme are met by the Department of Justice (DoJ) with its own provision and are mainly used for promoting the Pilot Scheme.
2026-27	The DoJ has earmarked a provision of about \$4 million for implementing the Pilot Scheme in the financial year of 2026-27, covering a government subsidy of up to \$60,000 for each eligible case (the annual total amount of government subsidy is subject to a cap set for the same year) and the expenditure on publicity and promotion.

As for staff establishment, the work on taking forward the Pilot Scheme is mainly supported by the Alternative Dispute Resolution Unit of the DoJ. The establishment of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Unit is as follows:

Unit	Existing establishment
Alternative Dispute Resolution Unit	1 Principal Government Counsel, 1 Deputy Principal Government Counsel, 6 Senior Government Counsel, 8 Government Counsel, 3 Law Clerks, 2 Personal Secretaries I, 1 Personal Secretary II and 2 Assistant Clerical Officers

As the work on taking forward the Pilot Scheme is undertaken by the above officers among their other duties, the actual expenditure/manpower involved cannot be separately identified.

2. The designated online platform for sports dispute resolution (the Online Platform) under the Pilot Scheme is technically supported by eBRAM and operated independently by AALCO-HKRAC. Parties to sports disputes may resolve their disputes by way of a “mediation first, arbitration next” approach through the Online Platform, which allows users to submit claims, upload documents and evidence, conduct online hearings and apply for government subsidies for eligible cases. Given that the Pilot Scheme is still in its early phase of implementation, information on the number of applications received, types of disputes and progress of handling is not available at this stage.
3. Hong Kong is home to a large pool of legal and dispute resolution talents with extensive expertise and experience. In the area of sports dispute resolution, as of 6 March 2026, there were a total of 110 arbitrators with expertise in sports on the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre’s panel and list of arbitrators, and 153 mediators with expertise in sports on the Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited’s panel of mediators. At present, there are 53 mediators and 43 arbitrators on the panels of sports mediators and sports arbitrators respectively under the Pilot Scheme, including those from the local legal and sports sectors and professional dispute resolution practitioners from 23 jurisdictions, as well as experienced experts in international sports mediation and arbitration. AALCO-HKRAC will continue to process applications for inclusion on the panels and update the panels accordingly.

The DoJ has been actively organising and supporting talent training on sports dispute resolution. Efforts made by the DoJ in this regard include co-organising the Sports Arbitration Demonstration with the Hong Kong Bar Association and Hong Kong Baptist University on 9 October 2025; and serving as a supporting organisation of the 1st and 2nd AALCO Sports Mediation Training Programmes held in January and September 2025 respectively, and eBRAM’s Certified Online Dispute Resolution Training Course (Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution Special Session) on 11 and 25 February 2026. The DoJ will organise a sports mediation seminar during the Mediation Week in May 2026 and a sports dispute resolution workshop in the 2nd quarter of 2026. The target participants of the above training programmes include those from the legal and sports sectors (e.g. representatives of local national sports associations, current and retired athletes, and other individuals who aspire to be involved in sports dispute resolution), with a view to promoting the diversified development of dispute resolution services in Hong Kong and providing relevant individuals with wider career development prospects.

4. Regarding publicity, industry communication and promotional efforts, the DoJ will continue to work in collaboration with the legal and sports sectors (including the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China) to actively take forward the publicity and promotion of sports dispute resolution in order to foster the use of sports mediation and arbitration in Hong Kong. As the administering body and the technology provider for the Pilot Scheme respectively, AALCO-HKRAC and eBRAM will maintain communication with the Government to actively promote the Pilot Scheme. They will encourage the sports industry (including local national sports associations and athletes) to make full use of the Pilot Scheme to effectively resolve sports disputes. The relevant expenditure will be met by the operating funds for the Pilot Scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ028

(Question Serial No. 0293)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

To foster the sustainable development of the local sports industry, and establish a fair, efficient and professional sports dispute resolution system by leveraging the institutional advantages of Hong Kong as an international dispute resolution services centre, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) What were the actual numbers of participants and related expenditure of the sports mediation training programme held in 2025?
- (2) Will the said programme be regularised or will other related training programmes be introduced in the future in order to continuously nurture sports mediators and arbitrators? If yes, please specify the estimated number of trainees each year, the implementation timetable, and the estimated expenditure.
- (3) As announced by the Department of Justice, the designated online platform for sports dispute resolution under the Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution (the Pilot Scheme) has been officially launched, and is now open for applications for mediation and arbitration of sports disputes. What are the estimated number and types of cases to be handled by the Pilot Scheme in the coming year, and how will the effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme be evaluated?
- (4) As of March 2026, what are the total approved provision, main uses of the funds expended to date and current balance for the Pilot Scheme respectively? Are there any plans to seek additional provisions in the future to continue or expand the Pilot Scheme?
- (5) Are there any plans by the Government to further enhance the existing training programme or support scheme on sports dispute mediation and arbitration in the future? If yes, what are the specific details and estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon HO King-hong, Adrian Pedro (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

(1) (2) The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre (AALCO-HKRAC) organised the 1st and 2nd AALCO Sports Mediation Training Programmes (the Training Programme) in January and September 2025 respectively, with a total of 86 participants. The 3rd edition of the Training Programme is scheduled for March 2026. As the Training Programme is independently managed and operated by AALCO-HKRAC, no expenditure is incurred by the Department of Justice (DoJ) as a supporting organisation. As for whether the Training Programme will be regularised or supplemented with other related training, the arrangements will be considered and determined by AALCO-HKRAC having regard to the actual circumstances.

(3) AALCO-HKRAC and eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre Limited (eBRAM) serve as the administering body and the technology provider respectively for the Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution (the Pilot Scheme), which has been accepting applications for sports dispute mediation and arbitration since 13 February 2026 and adopts a “mediation first, arbitration next” approach to resolve commercial and non-commercial sports disputes. Given that the Pilot Scheme is still in its early phase of implementation, it is not possible at this stage to estimate the number of cases and types of disputes to be handled in the coming year. The Pilot Scheme will run for 2 years and will be reviewed in due course. Meanwhile, the DoJ will collaborate with the legal and sports sectors to actively take forward the publicity and promotion of sports dispute resolution in order to foster the use of sports mediation and arbitration in Hong Kong, and encourage the sports industry to make full use of the Pilot Scheme to effectively resolve sports disputes.

(4) As of March 2026, the operating funds for the Pilot Scheme had been met by the DoJ with its own resources and had mainly been used for promoting the Pilot Scheme. The DoJ has earmarked a provision of about \$4 million for implementing the Pilot Scheme in the financial year of 2026-27, covering a government subsidy of up to \$60,000 for each eligible case (the annual total amount of government subsidy is subject to a cap set for the same year) and the expenditure on publicity and promotion. As for whether additional provisions will be sought in the future to continue or expand the Pilot Scheme, this will depend on the findings of the review of the Pilot Scheme.

(5) The DoJ has been actively organising and supporting talent training on sports dispute resolution, and will continue to take forward the publicity and promotion of sports dispute resolution in collaboration with the legal and sports sectors (including the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China) in order to foster the use of sports mediation and arbitration in Hong Kong and encourage the sports industry (including local national sports associations and athletes) to make full use of the Pilot Scheme to effectively resolve sports disputes, thereby advancing Hong Kong’s development as an international centre for sports dispute resolution. In addition to the aforesaid Training Programme, the DoJ also co-organised the Sports Arbitration Demonstration with the Hong Kong Bar Association and Hong Kong Baptist University on 9 October 2025, and served as a supporting organisation of eBRAM’s Certified Online Dispute Resolution Training Course (Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution Special Session) on 11 and 25 February 2026. The DoJ will organise a sports mediation seminar during the Mediation Week in May 2026 and a sports dispute resolution workshop in the 2nd quarter of 2026.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ029

(Question Serial No. 1168)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

Regarding the work of the Department of Justice, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) What are the reasons for the reduction of a total of 30 posts in the staffing provision for 2026-27 and the estimated savings involved?
- 2) How will resources be allocated in view of the heavy legislative schedule for 2026-27?
- 3) Regarding the activities aiming to provide support for promoting the use of LawTech by Hong Kong's legal sector, please tabulate the themes, schedules, target participants, estimated number of participants, and publicity channels of the activities. What are the estimated expenditure and staffing involved?
- 4) What is the timetable for research on laws related to artificial intelligence and how is the preparatory work progressing at this stage?

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

- (1) In 2026-27, there will be a net reduction of 30 posts in the Department of Justice (DoJ), with an estimated saving in annual salary cost of about \$5,937,300. The adjustment is mainly made to align with the Government's plan to reduce the civil service establishment by 2% in 2026-27 after having regard to factors such as the overall service demand, operational needs and vacancy situations, with a view to achieving the objectives of the Government's Productivity Enhancement Programme and optimising the use of manpower resources.
- (2) On law drafting, the Law Drafting Division of the DoJ reviews from time to time its establishment and staff resources to ensure that it can cope with the heavy legislative schedule. We will redeploy staff internally to handle the workload, and will employ

Contract Counsel and Contract Legal Clerks to assist in law drafting as operational needs require.

- (3) The DoJ is committed to promoting the development of LawTech. Tasks completed in 2025 include the establishment of the Consultation Group on LawTech Development, the organisation of 4 rounds of LexGoTech Roundtables, the release of the LexGoTech Roundtables Report, the hosting of the inaugural Hong Kong LawTech Fest, and the launch of the “Survey of LawTech Service Providers in Hong Kong”. The DoJ has been exchanging views with the sector and various stakeholders through diverse means to understand the sector’s needs and the development of the LawTech market, and encourage the sector to make better use of LawTech. The DoJ also explores and formulates LawTech-related policies and measures. Building on the outcomes of the tasks completed in 2025, the DoJ will continue to take forward various initiatives in 2026. The preliminary planning covers the following 3 major themes and directions:

Themes and target participants	Estimated implementation schedule
(1) Exchanging views with the sector and various stakeholders on an ongoing basis	
The DoJ will continue to organise the LexGoTech Roundtable to provide a platform for the sector and LawTech service providers to exchange views directly. It enables the sector to better understand how the service providers address the concern about the use of LawTech raised by users, thereby promoting a wider application of LawTech. Such ongoing exchanges enable the DoJ to gain insights into the sector’s views and updates on the LawTech service providers, providing references and bases for formulating future policies and measures.	First half of 2026
(2) Actively exploring appropriate policies and measures	
The DoJ will continue to gather and examine the views from the sector and stakeholders, and consolidate insights obtained from the “Survey of LawTech Service Providers in Hong Kong”. Based on these, the DoJ will consider implementing appropriate measures to promote the use of LawTech by the sector, including exploring the launch of a concession scheme in collaboration with LawTech service providers and the provision of short-term subsidies in the second half of 2026, to support the sector in adopting LawTech services that suit its needs, so as to encourage and assist the sector to further enhance its overall competitiveness through LawTech.	The work in collecting suggestions will continue throughout the first half of 2026 for exploration of appropriate measures. Relevant support measures will be implemented in the second half of 2026 depending on the circumstances.

Themes and target participants	Estimated implementation schedule
(3) Expanding and strengthening the promotion of LawTech application	
<p>The inaugural Hong Kong LawTech Fest was well received. The event, which featured a thematic conference, expert dialogues, live demonstrations and an exhibition, successfully brought together legal practitioners, LawTech service providers, experts, academics and policymakers. By showcasing innovative LawTech products and services, it provided an opportunity for participants to explore how technology is reshaping the modes of legal practice and services. Building on the success of the inaugural Hong Kong LawTech Fest, the DoJ is actively preparing for the second Hong Kong LawTech Fest, which is scheduled to be held during the Hong Kong Legal Week, the annual flagship event of the DoJ, in November 2026.</p>	<p>November 2026</p>

The attendance for these activities depends on their nature, format (e.g. online or in-person) and target participants. In planning events, the DoJ continues to draw reference from and consolidate the views of stakeholders, refining event content and arrangements as necessary and appropriate.

Regarding publicity, the DoJ will focus on maintaining communication with the sector. By establishing close ties and providing platforms for gathering and exchanging views, it aims to enable the legal sector and stakeholders to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the relevant policies and measures as well as the development of LawTech. Promotion will also be carried out through the DoJ's website and social media platforms.

The estimated expenditure and staffing involved will be absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ.

- (4) The Secretary for Justice convened a Steering Committee meeting on the establishment of the Inter-Departmental Working Group to Review Legislation to Support Wider Application of Artificial Intelligence (the Working Group) on 6 March. Officials attending the meeting on behalf of various policy bureaux and government departments (including the Judiciary Administration, the Administration Wing and the Digital Policy Office) included Directors of Bureaux, Permanent Secretaries, Under Secretaries and Heads of Departments, etc. At the meeting, the purpose of the Working Group and its mode of operation under the superintendence of the Steering Committee were discussed.

Core members of the Working Group will be drawn from various policy bureaux and departments. Policy bureaux and departments would first need to conduct a comprehensive and thorough review of existing laws to identify loopholes and

deficiencies, before they are able to formulate targeted and practicable solutions taking into account Hong Kong's actual environment. As the review exercise has only just begun and covers a wide array of legislation across different policy areas and work portfolios, the DoJ could devise a more concrete implementation strategy and mode of collaboration for the Working Group only after finishing preliminary studies alongside the relevant bureaux and departments. It is therefore not feasible to elaborate on a timeline at this juncture.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ030

(Question Serial No. 1169)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 153 of the Budget Speech that preparations are underway for the development of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building as a new landmark of international legal hub. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the construction timetable and anticipated completion date of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building, and the estimated expenditure and staffing involved in the project? Please provide a breakdown of the estimated expenditure in table form.

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

The Department of Justice (DoJ) is preparing for the development of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building (the Building). Preparatory works, including site investigation and consultancy studies, will commence within this year in preparation for seeking funding approval for the construction project. Upon securing the funding, our target is to commence construction by the end of 2027. As the project is still in the planning and study stage, other specific details such as the construction timetable, anticipated completion date and expenditure involved are not yet available. To address the increase in workload arising from the development of the Building and the related work, the DoJ will strengthen support at non-directorate level through internal redeployment and creation of 2 time-limited posts, including 1 Senior Executive Officer post and 1 Executive Officer I post. The annual salary cost of the additional non-directorate posts is \$2,113,440.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ031

(Question Serial No. 3246)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

Paragraphs 153 and 154 of the Budget Speech mention the development of Hong Kong as an international legal hub, including the development of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the promotional and exchange activities that the Department of Justice plans to conduct in 2026-27 to attract more international legal and dispute resolution services institutions to establish offices in Hong Kong? Please provide the details in tabular format, including their themes, schedules, target participants, publicity channels, and the staffing and estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 8)

Reply:

The Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy (the Academy) makes good use of Hong Kong's bilingual common law system, international status and unique strengths under "One Country, Two Systems" to provide a platform for capacity-building and sharing of knowledge and experience for legal professionals in Hong Kong, the Chinese Mainland and other jurisdictions, in particular those in regions along the Belt and Road (B&R). By organising practical legal courses, seminars and international exchange programmes, the Academy promotes international legal talent exchanges, thereby consolidating Hong Kong's position as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific region, and developing the city into a centre for legal capacity-building.

In 2026-27, the Academy will actively collaborate with more international organisations, legal bodies, countries and legal professional bodies in providing customised practical programmes on various legal topics, and will also regularly organise training courses for legal professionals in different jurisdictions, in particular those in regions along the B&R, with a view to promoting international legal talent exchanges. For instance, the Academy will join hands with the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (OCMFA) in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to co-organise the 2nd Edition of "Belt and Road" Visit for Hong Kong Young International Legal Talents in July 2026, featuring visits to Yunnan Province in China and Laos, to

exchange views with relevant government authorities, legal institutions and organisations, enterprises, chambers of commerce, etc. Meanwhile, with the support of Indonesia, Korea and Singapore, the Academy has obtained the endorsement of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Committee to co-organise a workshop on the use of international legal instruments to handle cross-boundary commercial disputes and digital economy with the Hague Conference on Private International Law Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific during the 3rd APEC Senior Officials' Meeting 2026. The Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Office (the Training Office) is responsible for planning and organising capacity-building programmes of the Academy. At present, the establishment of the Training Office comprises 4 time-limited posts for a period of 5 years, including 1 time-limited post of Assistant Principal Government Counsel (DL1)/DL1-equivalent non-civil service position (i.e. Director of the Training Office). The annual salary cost of the post is \$2,088,840. The remaining 3 time-limited posts include 1 Senior Government Counsel post (i.e. Deputy Director of the Training Office), 1 Government Counsel post (i.e. Assistant Director of the Training Office) and 1 Law Clerk post (i.e. Programme Coordinator of the Training Office). The annual salary cost of these 3 non-directorate posts is \$3,303,360. The training programmes are supported by different units of the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the relevant personnel are concurrently responsible for other duties. As the estimated expenditure of the Academy for organising the legal capacity-building programmes, covering overseas promotion, invitation of internationally renowned trainers, and manpower and other related costs for organising and supporting the legal talent training programmes, will be absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ, the specific operating expenses of the Academy cannot be separately identified.

Furthermore, the DoJ will continue to collaborate with the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the OCMFA in the HKSAR in organising international forums during Hong Kong Legal Week, to be held from 2 to 6 November 2026. The forums will bring together legal professionals from different jurisdictions, representatives of international organisations, government officials and academics to exchange experiences and share insights on international law, private international law and international trade law. By showcasing Hong Kong as a hub for international legal exchange, the forums aim to attract more international legal and dispute resolution services institutions to establish offices in Hong Kong. The DoJ is actively planning and preparing for the events, including the programme contents, publicity channels, and the required manpower and estimated expenditure, and will liaise with the relevant international organisations and the OCMFA when appropriate. The DoJ will also actively co-ordinate with UNIDROIT, which is set to open its liaison office in Hong Kong this year. The above expenditure will be absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ032

(Question Serial No. 2375)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (5) International Law

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 153 of the Budget Speech that the Department of Justice is preparing for the development of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building (the Building) as a new landmark of international legal hub, which will be home to the headquarters of the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy and international legal and dispute resolution services institutions, etc. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) What are the current status of construction preparations, the estimated capital cost, and the implementation timetable for the Building?
- 2) How many international legal and dispute resolution services institutions are currently planning to move into the Building? Please provide a list of the institutions that have decided to establish operations there?
- 3) What are the expected economic and social benefits brought by the Building after its completion?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ka-keung (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

1. The Department of Justice (DoJ) is preparing for the development of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building (the Building). Preparatory works, including site investigation and consultancy studies, will commence within this year in preparation for seeking funding approval for the construction project. Upon securing the funding, our target is to commence construction by the end of 2027. As the project is still in the planning and study stage, other specific details such as the estimated capital cost and the implementation timetable are not yet available.
2. The DoJ is currently preparing for the development of the Building. Relevant arrangements and information regarding the move-in of legal and dispute resolution services institutions to the Building will be announced in a timely manner.

3. The completion of the Building will further strengthen Hong Kong's role as an international centre for legal and dispute resolution services, attract more international legal and dispute resolution institutions to establish a presence in Hong Kong, enhance Hong Kong's capability and capacity in organising legal capacity-building programmes and practical training courses, and attract parties in a dispute, lawyers and other professionals to use Hong Kong's legal and dispute resolution services. This will not only deepen international exchanges and co-operation, but will also build Hong Kong as the world's "Capital of Mediation" and a centre for legal exchanges and training of international legal talents.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ033

(Question Serial No. 0636)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (5) International Law

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 153 of the Budget Speech that the Department of Justice is preparing for the development of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building as a new landmark of international legal hub, which will be home to the headquarters of the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy and international legal and dispute resolution services institutions, etc. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What is the estimated expenditure on the development of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building?
2. What is the schedule for the development of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building from planning to completion?
3. It is learnt that the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building will support Mainland enterprises in going global. What are the specific details involved?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 26)

Reply:

1 & 2.

The Department of Justice (DoJ) is preparing for the development of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building (the Building). Preparatory works, including site investigation and consultancy studies, will commence within this year in preparation for seeking funding approval for the construction project. Upon securing the funding, our target is to commence construction by the end of 2027. As the project is still in the planning and study stage, other specific details such as the expenditure and completion schedule are not yet available.

3.

The Building will house international and local legal and dispute resolution services institutions, and will also include venues for international legal conferences as well as international legal affairs research, arbitration and mediation facilities, etc. As part of the development of an international legal hub, the completion of the Building will be conducive to deepening international exchanges and co-operation. It will showcase the international perspective of Hong Kong's legal services, their high standards of professional expertise and deep understanding of both Chinese and foreign cultures, thereby facilitating the further promotion of Hong Kong's full range of legal and dispute resolution services, including serving the "going global" needs of Mainland enterprises in a more comprehensive manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2195)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 170 of the Budget Speech that the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy (the Academy) has provided professional practical training for over 2 000 participants from various places and will continue facilitating experience sharing with legal and dispute resolution practitioners in the Mainland, the Belt and Road and other jurisdictions. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What was the specific expenditure of the Academy in 2025?
2. What were the key performance indicators for the Academy, the number of courses offered and the number of beneficiaries in 2025?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

- (1) The Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Office (the Training Office) is responsible for planning and organising capacity-building programmes of the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy (the Academy). At present, the establishment of the Training Office comprises 4 time-limited posts for a period of 5 years, including 1 time-limited post of Assistant Principal Government Counsel (DL1)/DL1-equivalent non-civil service position (i.e. Director of the Training Office). The annual salary cost of the post is \$2,088,840. The remaining 3 time-limited posts include 1 Senior Government Counsel post (i.e. Deputy Director of the Training Office), 1 Government Counsel post (i.e. Assistant Director of the Training Office) and 1 Law Clerk post (i.e. Programme Coordinator of the Training Office). The annual salary cost of these 3 non-directorate posts is \$3,303,360. The training programmes are supported by different units of the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the relevant personnel are concurrently responsible for other duties. As the Academy's expenditures for 2025, including the manpower and other related expenditures required for overseas promotion, inviting internationally renowned trainers, and organising and supporting legal talent

training programmes were absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ, the specific operating expenses of the Academy cannot be separately identified.

- (2) Since its launch in November 2024, the Academy has collaborated with more than 20 international legal organisations, relevant Mainland authorities, local professional bodies, etc. in organising over 20 capacity-building programmes within and outside Hong Kong for legal professionals in Hong Kong, the Chinese Mainland and regions along the Belt and Road, providing training for more than 2 000 participants around the globe. As the Academy is still in its development stage and needs time to accumulate experience, the training outcomes of each programme are currently assessed through trainees' feedback via feedback forms. In the future, the Academy will actively collaborate with more legal bodies, countries and legal professional bodies in providing customised practical programmes on various legal topics, and will also regularly organise training courses for legal talents from different jurisdictions, with a view to providing training for more non-local legal professionals. The Academy will also conduct timely reviews and set pertinent performance indicators at a suitable time based on actual circumstances and development needs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ035

(Question Serial No. 3223)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (5) International Law

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

The International Organization for Mediation (IOMed) headquarters was inaugurated at the end of last year. "Mediation" is a flexible, cost-effective, convenient and efficient dispute resolution mechanism which can help disputing parties maintain long-term relationships with each other, while further leveraging Hong Kong's unique role and functions. In this regard, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What is the estimated expenditure of IOMed for 2026?
2. How does the Government take forward various policy initiatives to promote mediation as the preferred method of dispute resolution?
3. What is the estimated average number of cases handled annually by the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) mediation platform?
4. What progress has been made in promoting the formulation of a unified set of mediator qualifications in the GBA?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

1. The International Organization for Mediation (IOMed) is the world's first international inter-governmental legal organisation dedicated to resolving international disputes through mediation, serving as an important mechanism for the implementation of international disputes settlement by peaceful means as stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations. Aiming to achieve win-win co-operation among all parties to a dispute, IOMed is of great significance in improving global governance and promoting world peace and stability in the international order. Furthermore, it supports the development of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) into the Global Mediation Capital.

At its inaugural Governing Council meeting held in the HKSAR on 20 October 2025, IOMed was authorised to commence operations as of the same date, marking its official establishment in the HKSAR.

As a matter of law, IOMed is an international organisation with an independent legal personality. As such, IOMed operates independently through its Secretariat in accordance with its own applicable rules and regulations. Given IOMed's role as an independent international organisation, its administration and operations are led by the Secretary-General of IOMed, who is the legal representative and the chief official of IOMed, in accordance with the Convention on the Establishment of the International Organization for Mediation (the IOMed Convention), rules and regulations adopted by the Governing Council, and rules made by the Secretariat. The estimated expenditure of IOMed falls under the internal management of the Secretariat. In accordance with the relevant provision of the IOMed Convention, the Secretariat is responsible for preparing an annual budget of revenues and expenditures for review and approval by the Governing Council. Therefore, the HKSAR Government is not in position to provide further information on the estimated expenditures of IOMed.

2. The Department of Justice (DoJ) has been actively organising or supporting a diverse range of activities and programmes to promote mediation as the preferred method of dispute resolution. Regular activities include:

- (i) Organising the annual flagship event, the Hong Kong Legal Week, to bring together legal and dispute resolution experts and academics from around the world through a series of activities such as summits and seminars, including organising the thematic forum titled "Capital of Mediation" in Hong Kong Legal Week 2025 to explore important topics related to international and local mediation, thereby promoting the development of the legal and mediation sectors;
- (ii) Co-organising the Hong Kong Mediation Lecture with Herbert Smith Freehills during the Hong Kong Legal Week, inviting internationally renowned speakers to share insights on various mediation topics. The lecture attracts local lawyers and mediators and enhances their understanding of the international development of mediation. This enables the local sectors to seize opportunities for overseas development and cross-boundary dispute resolution, and provides a platform for exchange between local and international mediation sectors;
- (iii) The DoJ will organise the Mediation Week 2026 from 4 to 7 May 2026, and will support IOMed in hosting the Global Mediation Summit on 8 May 2026 to discuss and exchange views on hot topics in mediation. The Mediation Week and the Global Mediation Summit will explore a wide range of topics, including emerging mediation issues in the context of Hong Kong, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) and the international arena, bringing together mediators, policy-makers and leaders from around the world. By providing an exchange platform for the sector, these events foster the development of the local legal and mediation sectors, thereby supporting Hong Kong's development and strengthening its unique position as the Global Mediation Capital; and
- (iv) Organising the biennial "Mediate First" Pledge Event to encourage all sectors of the community to explore the use of mediation to resolve disputes before resorting

to other means of dispute resolution or litigation. The “Mediate First” Pledge Event will enhance the general public’s understanding and adoption of mediation, thereby promoting the development of the local legal and mediation sectors. The next edition of “Mediate First” Pledge Event will be held in May 2027.

In addition to organising publicity activities or supporting promotional campaigns, the Government has implemented the following initiatives to deepen the mediation culture, thereby reinforcing Hong Kong’s position as the capital of mediation:

- (i) Taking the lead to incorporate mediation clauses in government contracts and encouraging private organisations to make reference to and adopt similar clauses in their contracts. To take forward the initiative, the DoJ issued the Policy Statement on the Incorporation of Mediation Clauses in Government Contracts on 6 November 2024. The mediation clause signifies the parties’ agreement to use mediation to resolve disputes first before resorting to arbitration or litigation. The policy took effect on 6 February 2025. To complement the implementation of the policy, the DoJ promulgated The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Mediation Rules (2025 Edition) on the same day and wrote to the private sector to encourage them to adopt similar mediation clauses;
- (ii) The DoJ, the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department launched the 2-year Pilot Scheme on Community Mediation (the Pilot Scheme) in the 2nd quarter of 2025. Tailored for property management personnel, the Pilot Scheme aims to enhance their mediation skills through professional training to better handle common community disputes (such as water seepage and neighbour conflicts). The training content integrates both theory and practice. In addition to covering fundamental mediation knowledge, it strengthens the trainees’ practical application skills via interactive teaching methods such as scenario simulations and role-playing, enabling them to serve as competent frontline co-ordinators in community disputes, thereby effectively fostering community harmony. As of February 2026, 7 training sessions had been conducted. It is expected that a total of 9 training sessions will be conducted by May 2026. Under the current plan, the Pilot Scheme is expected to deliver a total of 21 training sessions; and
- (iii) As an initiative announced in the Policy Address, the DoJ, with the support of the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau, launched the Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution in December 2025. The Pilot Scheme aims to provide the sports sector with a fair and efficient mechanism for resolving sports disputes through mediation and arbitration, thereby promoting the development of Hong Kong as an international centre for sports dispute resolution. The Pilot Scheme has been open for applications for mediation and arbitration of sports disputes since 13 February 2026.

The HKSAR Government is committed to developing Hong Kong into the Global Mediation Capital. IOMed is positioned to be on par with the International Court of Justice of the United Nations and the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, which specialise in other means of dispute resolution. The HKSAR Government will continue to fully support and complement the work of IOMed.

In accordance with relevant provisions of the Convention, IOMed handles not only disputes between states but also international investment and commercial disputes. Enterprises and organisations can actively consider incorporating IOMed’s model dispute resolution clause into their international contracts. As for existing contracts in which the model clause is not incorporated, enterprises and organisations may actively consider submitting disputes to IOMed for handling after such disputes arise. The HKSAR Government continues to actively support IOMed in promoting its mediation services to various enterprises and organisations as well as foreign governments.

3. At the second GBA Legal Departments Joint Conference in 2020, the proposal to establish the GBA Mediation Platform was endorsed by the legal departments of the 3 places. The Platform serves neither as a mediation service provider nor a standards implementation agency in the GBA, but as an authoritative platform for co-operation among the legal departments of the 3 governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao to promote mediation. It facilitates high-level exchanges among the legal departments of the 3 governments in the GBA and discharges the role of a standard-setting body so as to promote the wider use of mediation in the GBA.

The GBA Mediation Platform has developed various “GBA standards”, including the Greater Bay Area Mediator Accreditation Standards, the Greater Bay Area Mediator Code of Conduct Best Practice and the Greater Bay Area Cross-boundary Disputes Mediation Model Rules. It has also established the GBA Mediator Panel to promote and strengthen public confidence in the use of mediation in the GBA, facilitating the provision of mediation services by qualified GBA mediators.

4. According to the Greater Bay Area Mediator Accreditation Standards formulated by the GBA mediation platform, the legal departments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao are required to formulate their own local accreditation rules according to their respective actual circumstances, conduct local accreditation of GBA mediators and form lists of GBA mediators endorsed by each of the 3 places. These lists shall be submitted to the GBA Mediation Working Group for consideration. After review, a consolidated panel of GBA mediators will be formed.

Regarding progress in promoting the formulation of a unified set of mediator qualifications in the GBA, the DoJ promulgated the Greater Bay Area Mediator Accreditation Rules (Hong Kong Special Administrative Region), which is applicable to accreditation through Hong Kong, based on the requirements of the Greater Bay Area Mediator Accreditation Standards in 2024, and initiated the accreditation work in the same year. The first GBA Mediator Panel was promulgated by the legal departments of the 3 places in 2024 and is updated on an annual basis. The updated GBA Mediator Panel 2025, promulgated on 30 December 2025, comprises 233 mediators from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao. The panel demonstrates the commitment of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao to promoting quality and efficient mediation services in the GBA.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2208)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (5) International Law

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

The Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy (the Academy) has provided training for over 2 000 participants. What are the Academy's estimated expenditure and training quotas for 2026-27? Will there be collaboration with more Belt and Road (B&R) jurisdictions? How many new legal bodies, judicial training academies or lawyers' associations in B&R countries or regions does the Academy plan to establish co-operation with? What will be the forms of co-operation? Will the Academy develop specialised courses tailored to the legal systems of different jurisdictions? If yes, what will be the additional expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 211)

Reply:

The Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Office (the Training Office) is responsible for planning and organising capacity-building programmes of the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy (the Academy). At present, the establishment of the Training Office comprises 4 time-limited posts for a period of 5 years, including 1 time-limited post of Assistant Principal Government Counsel (DL1)/DL1-equivalent non-civil service position (i.e. Director of the Training Office). The annual salary cost of the post is \$2,088,840. The remaining 3 time-limited posts include 1 Senior Government Counsel post (i.e. Deputy Director of the Training Office), 1 Government Counsel post (i.e. Assistant Director of the Training Office) and 1 Law Clerk post (i.e. Programme Coordinator of the Training Office). The annual salary cost of these 3 non-directorate posts is \$3,303,360. The training programmes are supported by different units of the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the relevant personnel are concurrently responsible for other duties. As the Academy's expenditures for 2026-27, including the manpower and other related expenditures required for overseas promotion, inviting internationally renowned trainers, and organising and supporting legal talent training programmes will be absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ, the specific operational expenditures of the Academy cannot be separately identified. Since the training quotas vary with the content and format of training programmes, and the actual size will depend on attendance and training needs, definite figures are not available at this stage.

The Academy will continue to actively explore collaboration with more jurisdictions along the Belt and Road (B&R), international institutions, legal bodies and organisations to co-organise training courses, thematic seminars and international conferences, etc. For example, the Academy plans to co-organise training programmes in Xinjiang with local legal bodies in June 2026. In addition, with the support of Indonesia, Korea and Singapore, the Academy has obtained the endorsement of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Committee for co-organising a workshop on the use of international legal instruments to handle cross-boundary commercial disputes and digital economy with the Hague Conference on Private International Law Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific during the 3rd APEC Senior Officials' Meeting 2026. In addition, the Academy and the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region will jointly organise the 2nd Edition of "Belt and Road" Visit for Hong Kong Young International Legal Talents in July this year. The programme will include visits to Yunnan Province and Laos, offering opportunities to exchange views with relevant government authorities, legal institutions and organisations, enterprises, chambers of commerce, etc., and gain first-hand understanding of the B&R landmark co-operation projects such as the China-Laos Railway.

The Academy will continue to explore opportunities for organising common law thematic training programmes in collaboration with regions along the B&R, with a view to further leveraging Hong Kong's unique strengths in its bilingual common law system in both Chinese and English. The Academy will deliver customised and specialised training courses having regard to the legal systems and professional needs of different regions. As the additional expenditure on the training courses will be absorbed by the existing resources of DoJ, the estimated amount cannot be separately identified.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ037

(Question Serial No. 1521)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (3) Constitutional and Policy Affairs

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

According to the indicators for Programme (3), the number of participants in “international and regional events” dropped from 42 468 in 2024 to 25 780 in 2025, representing a decrease of nearly 40% (-39.3%). Although the figure for 2026 is estimated to rebound to 32 830, it remains far below the 2024 level. Meanwhile, the number of events organised increased from 43 in 2024 to 55 in 2025, yet the number of participants declined.

In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. Despite the increase in number of events organised, why was there a substantial drop in number of participants? Was this owing to the resumption of in-person events in place of virtual ones, as stated in the previous replies? Given that the number of participants is expected to rebound in 2026, does this imply that more events will revert to virtual or hybrid modes to engage a broader range of participants? In planning the mode of events, how does the Department of Justice (DoJ) strike a balance among the number of participants, the depth of events, and the cost effectiveness?
2. In response to fluctuations in number of participants, does the DoJ have a more refined mechanism for evaluating the events' effectiveness? For instance, does the DoJ keep track of the professional backgrounds of participants (e.g. whether they are from countries along the Belt and Road or target enterprises), and the specific collaboration projects or legal talent exchanges initiated following the events?
3. How will the \$135.8 million earmarked for the “promotion and development of Hong Kong as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific Region” in the coming year be allocated across promotional events in different regions (e.g. the Mainland, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Middle East and other regions) and of different types? Does the estimate involve the establishment of any online platforms?

Asked by: Hon SO Shiu-tsung, Thomas (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

1-2.

After the pandemic, the international and regional events organised by the Department of Justice (DoJ) in 2024 and 2025 gradually resumed in-person mode, which led to an adjustment in the number of participants. In 2026, we will continue to enhance publicity of various events and, where appropriate, encourage those who are unable to attend in person to participate through online platforms.

Apart from international conferences, the rule of law education activities held locally, such as the “Rule of Law through Drama” project, also gradually resumed in-person mode after the pandemic so as to maximise the impact of the interactive elements in the drama performances. As the relevant activities were held at relatively frequent intervals in 2024 to accommodate school enrolment, most of the scheduled sessions were completed in 2024 and thus resulted in a downward adjustment in the number of participants in 2025. With a new round of activities beginning at the end of 2025 and in view of the school enrolment situation, a notable increase in the number of in-person drama performances and participants is expected in 2026.

The DoJ reviews the mode and content of these activities from time to time and listens to the views of participants and the legal sector in order to analyse and evaluate the outcomes of these activities, with a view to continuously enhancing their effectiveness and impact.

In 2024 and 2025, the regional events organised by the DoJ in Hong Kong, such as various types of legal seminars, rule of law education activities and promotional events, were attended by representatives of the legal sector, students and individuals from different sectors in the community, particularly those in charge of or involved in organising youth or community activities. As for the international legal conferences and other promotional and legal exchange events held by the DoJ in Hong Kong and overseas, participants include officials and judicial officers, representatives of international organisations, legal practitioners, the business community, representatives of the dispute resolution sector and legal academics from different countries, including those along the Belt and Road. The DoJ does not maintain any information about the specific collaboration projects or legal talent exchanges initiated following the events.

3.

The DoJ’s overall estimate for the “promotion and development of Hong Kong as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific Region” for 2026-27 is \$135.8 million. Apart from promotional events, including the establishment of online platforms (e.g. the Hong Kong Legal Week website) and the use of social media accounts (e.g. Weibo and Facebook), the estimate will also be used for facilitating and supporting international law-related organisations and dispute resolution institutions to establish a presence in Hong Kong, enhancing legal capacity-building, nurturing legal talent and strengthening international or regional legal co-operation. When organising the aforesaid events, the DoJ takes into account their objectives, themes and focus and advances them in the most appropriate manner, without allocating the expenditure according to the regions from which the target participants come (e.g. the Mainland, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Middle East and other regions). Besides, as the promotional events are organised and supported by various units of the DoJ and the work is undertaken by the relevant officers among their other duties, the expenditure involved cannot be separately identified and is absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ038

(Question Serial No. 1522)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (2) Civil

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

It is stated under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026-27 that a series of initiatives related to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) will be implemented, including “implementation of initiatives under the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area mediation platform” and “implementation of initiatives relating to the Panel of Greater Bay Area Arbitrators”.

In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. In addition to promoting the establishment of the Panel of GBA Mediators and Panel of GBA Arbitrators, what are the specific measures taken by the Department of Justice to assist Hong Kong lawyers who have obtained qualification to practise as GBA lawyers in gaining further access to the Mainland market?
2. What are the specific functions, mode of operation and budget of the GBA Lawyers Organization established in late 2025? Will it provide business matching service, training and study programmes or channels for communication with Mainland justice bureaux and departments?

Asked by: Hon SO Shiu-tsung, Thomas (LegCo internal reference no.: 5)

Reply:

1. On 17 July 2023, the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) signed a record of meeting for further deepening exchanges and co-operation on talent nurturing and legal and dispute resolution services between the Mainland and Hong Kong. The record of meeting includes, inter alia, enhancing the support for Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) lawyers practising in the Mainland, establishing a liaison mechanism for GBA lawyer services, facilitating the alignment of practice needs, as well as providing training on legal knowledge and practical skills, thereby creating favourable conditions for Hong Kong residents to practise in the Mainland. The DoJ has been actively implementing a number of measures and/or programmes to assist Hong Kong legal practitioners who have obtained

qualification to practise as GBA lawyers in gaining further access to the Mainland market. Relevant details are as follows:

Practical legal training course for GBA lawyers and intensive training on Mainland law and practice

The DoJ actively supports the provision of diverse professional training for GBA lawyers and the arrangement of practical training courses on Mainland law in collaboration with relevant Mainland authorities to enhance the practical knowledge of GBA lawyers on Mainland law and Mainland courts' handling of different areas of civil and commercial matters. Relevant training includes the 1st practical legal training course for GBA lawyers held in Guangzhou in July 2024, and the 2 phases of Intensive Training on Mainland Law and Practice held in Hong Kong in August 2024 and May 2025 respectively.

Hong Kong Legal Week 2025 – The 1st GBA Lawyers Forum

The DoJ actively supports the organisation of events to foster mutual exchanges and collaboration among GBA legal professionals. These include the 1st GBA Lawyers Forum under the Hong Kong Legal Week 2025 held on 5 December 2025 with the theme “GBA Connectivity: Setting Sail for Global Horizons”. The event attracted enthusiastic participation from numerous legal professionals in the GBA who exchanged practical experiences and discussed how dual-qualified GBA lawyers could leverage the unique strengths of “One Country, Two Systems, Three Jurisdictions” to assist Mainland enterprises in going global.

GBA Lawyers Organization

With the staunch support of the MoJ and the Department of Justice of Guangdong Province, and under the co-ordination of the DoJ, the GBA Lawyers Organization (the Organization) was officially launched at the 1st GBA Lawyers Forum under the Hong Kong Legal Week 2025 on 5 December 2025. The main responsibilities of the Organization include uniting Hong Kong lawyers with affection for the country and Hong Kong to give full effect to the role of GBA lawyers in the country's construction of foreign-related rule of law and promote integration of Hong Kong's legal community into the national development; strengthening professional exchanges and collaboration among lawyers in the GBA, facilitating GBA lawyers' participation in professional activities held in the Mainland and Hong Kong; and providing communication, consultation, and training services for those who have already obtained the GBA lawyer's licence, those who passed the GBA Legal Professional Examination with a plan to practise in the Mainland, as well as applicants for the GBA Legal Professional Examination. The Organization will also study and analyse the challenges and issues faced by lawyers practising in the GBA and propose solutions.

The DoJ will continue to maintain communication with the legal sector and work closely with the MoJ and the Department of Justice of Guangdong Province, with a view to further advancing the pilot scheme for GBA lawyers and supporting the development of the legal sector in the 9 Mainland municipalities in the GBA.

2. The DoJ has been supporting and promoting the establishment of the Organization, and has been working in close collaboration with the Organization to take forward the pilot scheme for GBA lawyers, so as to create favourable conditions for regularising the GBA lawyers scheme and contribute to the country's construction of foreign-related rule of law. The main responsibilities of the Organization are set out above. Given the prevailing principle of the self-regulatory regime for Hong Kong's legal sector, the DoJ has neither participated in the specific operation of the Organization nor provided it with financial support. The DoJ will maintain communication with the Organization, advance the pilot scheme for GBA lawyers, and provide support for relevant training.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ039

(Question Serial No. 1523)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (1) Prosecutions

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

The Prosecutions Division will continue to “handle prosecutorial work and matters relating to the fire at Wang Fuk Court in Tai Po (Tai Po fire) including the review conducted by the Independent Committee”. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. How much manpower (including the numbers of Government Counsel and briefed-out counsel/solicitors) has been deployed and what is the cumulative expenditure incurred by the Department of Justice (DoJ) in this respect since the outbreak of the fire? What are the estimated additional funding and manpower resources earmarked for this task in 2026-27?
2. What are the roles and responsibilities of the DoJ in the review conducted by the Independent Committee? Are the manpower and expenditure to be involved in this task covered under the estimated provision mentioned above?

Asked by: Hon SO Shiu-tsung, Thomas (LegCo internal reference no.: 6)

Reply:

1. In respect of the Tai Po fire incident, the Department of Justice (DoJ) has established a dedicated unit led by senior directorate officers to assist policy bureaux/departments in providing evidence and materials to the Independent Committee (IC) and to address related legal issues. As staff from different divisions are seconded to the dedicated unit from time to time to meet its operational needs, the manpower and expenditure involved cannot be separately identified. At present, 4 briefed-out counsel have been engaged to assist with the work. Since the IC's inquiry is underway, the expenditure on briefed-out counsel fees cannot yet be determined. In addition, the DoJ has made use of existing resources to arrange for Government Counsel to handle the related prosecutorial work and matters.

In addition to the existing manpower and expenditure, the estimated expenditure of the DoJ for 2026-27 also covers the salary and related costs for 3 additional time-limited

posts, including 1 non-civil service directorate post and 2 Senior Government Counsel posts on civil service terms, which total about \$7.8 million.

2. The DoJ provides legal support in various aspects to policy bureaux/departments in relation to the IC's inquiry, including:
 - (i) providing legal advice on matters relating to the submission of witness statements, documents and investigation materials to the IC;
 - (ii) participating at or attending the evidential hearings of the IC and providing legal advice in a timely manner;
 - (iii) providing legal advice on a broad range of legal issues relating to the Tai Po fire; and
 - (iv) providing legal advice on the follow-up to the IC's report.

The manpower and expenditure involved in the above work have been included in the estimated expenditure of the DoJ for 2026-27.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ040

(Question Serial No. 1524)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (2) Civil

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

It is clearly mentioned in Programme (2) that the Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution (the Pilot Scheme) will be implemented. On 13 February 2026, the Department of Justice announced the official launch of the designated online platform for sports dispute resolution under the Pilot Scheme, which has since been open for applications for mediation and arbitration of sports disputes.

In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the specific mode of operation of the Pilot Scheme, as well as the financial and staffing provision, and expenditure on publicity and promotion involved?
2. How to ensure the Pilot Scheme is effective in serving the local sports sector in alignment with international sports dispute resolution mechanisms?

Asked by: Hon SO Shiu-tsung, Thomas (LegCo internal reference no.: 7)

Reply:

1. The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre (AALCO-HKRAC) and eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre Limited (eBRAM) serve as the administering body and the technology provider respectively for the Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution (the Pilot Scheme), which has been accepting applications for mediation and arbitration of sports disputes since 13 February 2026 and adopts a “mediation first, arbitration next” approach to resolve commercial and non-commercial sports disputes.

The Department of Justice (DoJ) has earmarked a provision of about \$4 million for implementing the Pilot Scheme in the financial year of 2026-27, covering a government subsidy of up to \$60,000 for each eligible case (the annual total amount of government subsidy is subject to a cap set for the same year) and the expenditure on publicity and promotion.

As for staff establishment, the work on taking forward the Pilot Scheme is mainly supported by the Alternative Dispute Resolution Unit of the DoJ. The establishment of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Unit is as follows:

Unit	Existing establishment
Alternative Dispute Resolution Unit	1 Principal Government Counsel, 1 Deputy Principal Government Counsel, 6 Senior Government Counsel, 8 Government Counsel, 3 Law Clerks, 2 Personal Secretaries I, 1 Personal Secretary II and 2 Assistant Clerical Officers

As the work on taking forward the Pilot Scheme is undertaken by the above officers among their other duties, the actual manpower/expenditure involved cannot be separately identified.

2. To ensure the Pilot Scheme is effective in serving the local sports sector in alignment with international sports dispute resolution mechanisms, there are 53 mediators and 43 arbitrators on the panels of sports mediators and sports arbitrators respectively under the Pilot Scheme, including those from the local legal and sports sectors and professional dispute resolution practitioners from 23 jurisdictions, as well as experienced experts in international sports mediation and arbitration. AALCO-HKRAC will continue to process applications for inclusion on the panels and update the panels accordingly. The Pilot Scheme adopts a set of bespoke mediation and arbitration rules developed by AALCO-HKRAC, with due reference to international mechanisms such as the mediation and arbitration rules of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, with a view to strengthening the sports sector's confidence in using the Pilot Scheme.

The DoJ has been actively organising and supporting talent training on sports dispute resolution, and will continue to take forward the publicity and promotion of sports dispute resolution in collaboration with the legal and sports sectors (including the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China) in order to foster the use of sports mediation and arbitration in Hong Kong and encourage the sports industry (including local national sports associations and athletes) to make full use of the Pilot Scheme to effectively resolve sports disputes, thereby advancing Hong Kong's development as an international centre for sports dispute resolution. Efforts made by the DoJ in this regard include co-organising the Sports Arbitration Demonstration with the Hong Kong Bar Association and Hong Kong Baptist University on 9 October 2025; and serving as a supporting organisation of the 1st and 2nd AALCO Sports Mediation Training Programmes held in January and September 2025 respectively, and eBRAM's Certified Online Dispute Resolution Training Course (Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution Special Session) on 11 and 25 February 2026. The DoJ will organise a sports mediation seminar during the Mediation Week in May 2026 and a sports dispute resolution workshop in the 2nd quarter of 2026.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ041

(Question Serial No. 3253)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

It is mentioned by the Financial Secretary in paragraph 170 of the Budget Speech that the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy has provided professional practical training for over 2 000 participants from various places and will continue facilitating experience sharing with legal and dispute resolution practitioners in the Mainland, the Belt and Road and other jurisdictions. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) What is the statistical period covered by the figure “over 2 000 participants”?
- (2) How many participants were from the Mainland, countries along the Belt and Road and other jurisdictions respectively? Please list them in a table.
- (3) For past training programmes, what were the average number of participants and average expenditure in each round of training?
- (4) What were the total expenditure and average per capita cost of the past training programmes?
- (5) What is the provision for the Academy in 2026-27?
- (6) How can the effectiveness of these training initiatives in consolidating Hong Kong's position as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre be assessed? Are there any quantitative indicators and target benchmarks established for this purpose?

Asked by: Hon WU Yingpeng (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

- (1) Since its launch in November 2024, the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy (the Academy) has organised more than 20 capacity-building programmes and provided professional practical training for over 2 000 participants from various places.

- (2) These training programmes were conducted in Hong Kong, the Chinese Mainland and overseas. While some programmes were specifically designed for the overseas, the Chinese Mainland or the local legal sector, other programmes, such as international conferences, brought together participants from all these places. The proportion of participants of the training programmes is set out below:

	Target participants of training programmes	Number of participants
1.	Specifically targeting overseas legal sector (including countries along the Belt and Road (B&R) from Southeast Asia and other regions)	About 150
2.	Specifically targeting Chinese Mainland legal sector	About 300
3.	Specifically targeting local legal sector	About 300
4.	Targeting overseas, Chinese Mainland and local legal sectors at the same time (including countries along the B&R from Southeast Asia and other regions)	About 1 500

- (3) Given that the Academy's past training programmes varied in formats and target participants, the respective number of participants ranged from dozens to hundreds. As the manpower and other related expenditures required for organising legal talent training programmes were absorbed by the existing resources of the Department of Justice (DoJ), the expenditure on individual programmes cannot be separately identified.
- (4) The Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Office (the Training Office) is responsible for planning and organising capacity-building programmes of the Academy. At present, the establishment of the Training Office comprises 4 time-limited posts for a period of 5 years, including 1 time-limited post of Assistant Principal Government Counsel (DL1)/DL1-equivalent non-civil service position (i.e. Director of the Training Office). The annual salary cost of the post is \$2,088,840. The remaining 3 time-limited posts include 1 Senior Government Counsel post (i.e. Deputy Director of the Training Office), 1 Government Counsel post (i.e. Assistant Director of the Training Office) and 1 Law Clerk post (i.e. Programme Coordinator of the Training Office). The annual salary cost of these 3 non-directorate posts is \$3,303,360. The training programmes are supported by different units of the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the relevant personnel are concurrently responsible for other duties. The total expenditure of the Academy's past training programmes, including the manpower and other related expenditures required for overseas promotion, inviting internationally renowned trainers, and organising and supporting legal talent training programmes, were absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ. Hence, the expenditure on and the per capita cost of individual programmes cannot be separately identified.
- (5) In the 2026-27 financial year, the required manpower and other related expenditures of the Academy will continue to be absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ.

- (6) Officially launched in November 2024, the Academy is still in its development stage and needs time to accumulate experience. The training outcomes of each programme are currently assessed through trainees' feedback via feedback forms, in which the participants also provided suggestions on the course topics and content. Most of the feedback has been positive. In the future, the Academy will conduct timely reviews and set pertinent quantitative indicators and target benchmarks at a suitable time based on actual circumstances and development needs.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ042

(Question Serial No. 3254)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

It is mentioned by the Financial Secretary in paragraph 154 of the Budget Speech that the Department of Justice (DoJ) will continue attracting international legal and dispute resolution services institutions to establish offices in Hong Kong. Amongst them, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) will establish its Asia-Pacific Liaison Office in Hong Kong this year. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Does the Government provide venues and support for UNIDROIT? What is the estimated expenditure on this?
- (2) Besides UNIDROIT, which international legal and dispute resolution institutions is the Government currently trying to bring to Hong Kong to establish an office? Has a specific target been set for the number of institutions attracted to establish their presence in Hong Kong for the next 2 years?
- (3) What funding, support or preferential measures will the Government use to attract such international institutions to establish their presence in Hong Kong? What is the estimated expenditure for the measures?
- (4) How does the Government assess the actual benefits of UNIDROIT and other international institutions establishing offices in Hong Kong, in terms of promoting Hong Kong as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre? Is there a quantitative assessment mechanism for this purpose?

Asked by: Hon WU Yingpeng (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

- (1) The Department of Justice (DoJ) will provide rent-free office space for the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) to establish its liaison office at the Hong Kong Legal Hub housed in the former French Mission Building, which is a declared monument. UNIDROIT may then exchange experiences and share insights

with other local, regional and international law-related organisations situated at the Hong Kong Legal Hub. The DoJ will also provide UNIDROIT with other support, including financial support for co-organising events, and will continue to take forward the secondment programme developed with UNIDROIT to support its work and bolster its confidence in establishing a presence in Hong Kong, and set a good model for other international organisations, thereby attracting more international legal institutions to consider setting up in Hong Kong. Since the former French Mission Building is a government property, the DoJ is not required to pay any rent. The expenditure on co-organised events will depend on the specific needs and arrangements, and the expenditure on the secondment programme will be absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ.

- (2) Negotiations with relevant international legal and dispute resolution institutions and support from the Central Government are required in order for such institutions to establish a presence in Hong Kong. Relevant information will be announced by the DoJ when appropriate.
- (3) In considering the establishment of a presence in Hong Kong, the primary concerns of international legal and dispute resolution institutions are usually Hong Kong's rule of law infrastructure, its wealth of talent and its role as a regional and international hub, rather than funding or preferential measures. As mentioned previously by Mr Ignacio Tirado, Secretary-General of UNIDROIT, in an interview during the Hong Kong Legal Week, "The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) is a world-class centre. We believe it is a perfect platform for us. It is a perfect platform for us to disseminate our work and to engage our work with the countries of the region. Hong Kong has proven through years to be the excellent legal hub with extraordinary professionals and the excellent courts, excellent lawyers with excellent value for it, for application of laws."
- (4) The establishment of a presence of international organisations in Hong Kong manifests the unwavering confidence of the international community in the HKSAR's legal system. It represents a significant milestone for the development of the Hong Kong Legal Hub, and further reinforces Hong Kong's position as a leading international legal hub. It is envisaged that the establishment of a presence of UNIDROIT and related international organisations in Hong Kong will harness synergy between UNIDROIT and related legal organisations, including the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy, promote international legal talent exchanges and consolidate Hong Kong's position as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre. The DoJ anticipates that there will be an increasing number of events co-organised with these related international organisations in Hong Kong, drawing in legal professionals from various regions visiting Hong Kong to participate. The establishment of a presence of international organisations in Hong Kong will also generate wider media exposure for the city in the international arena. All of the above help raise Hong Kong's image, though the real impact and benefits are not easily quantifiable.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ043

(Question Serial No. 3485)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

According to the Budget Speech, the Government has launched the Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution (the Pilot Scheme) to advance Hong Kong's development as an international centre for sports dispute resolution. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the estimated expenditures for the operation of the Pilot Scheme, its publicity work, the provision of subsidy, and the staffing?
2. Since its launch, how many applications for mediation or arbitration of sports disputes have been received under the Pilot Scheme? What proportion of these cases involve local national sports associations, athletes, coaches, or commercial sports organisations?
3. How many mediators and arbitrators have participated in the Pilot Scheme? What are the Government's future plans to expand the pool of mediators and arbitrators to meet the anticipated demand arising from Hong Kong's development as an international centre for sports dispute resolution?

Asked by: Hon CHENG Wing-shun, Vincent (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:

1. The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre (AALCO-HKRAC) and eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre Limited (eBRAM) serve as the administering body and the technology provider respectively for the Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution (the Pilot Scheme), which has been accepting applications for mediation and arbitration of sports disputes since 13 February 2026 and adopts a "mediation first, arbitration next" approach to resolve commercial and non-commercial sports disputes. The Pilot Scheme will run for 2 years and will be reviewed in due course.

The Department of Justice (DoJ) has earmarked a provision of about \$4 million for implementing the Pilot Scheme in the financial year of 2026-27, covering a government subsidy of up to \$60,000 for each eligible case (the annual total amount of government subsidy is subject to a cap set for the same year) and the expenditure on publicity and promotion.

As for staff establishment, the work on taking forward the Pilot Scheme is mainly supported by the Alternative Dispute Resolution Unit of the DoJ. The establishment of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Unit is as follows:

Unit	Existing establishment
Alternative Dispute Resolution Unit	1 Principal Government Counsel, 1 Deputy Principal Government Counsel, 6 Senior Government Counsel, 8 Government Counsel, 3 Law Clerks, 2 Personal Secretaries I, 1 Personal Secretary II and 2 Assistant Clerical Officers

As the work on taking forward the Pilot Scheme is undertaken by the above officers among their other duties, the actual expenditure/manpower involved cannot be separately identified.

2. Given that the Pilot Scheme is still in its early phase of implementation, information on the number of applications for mediation and arbitration of sports disputes, and the proportion of cases involving local national sports associations, athletes, coaches or commercial sports organisations is not available at this stage.
3. At present, there are 53 mediators and 43 arbitrators on the panels of mediators and arbitrators respectively under the Pilot Scheme, including those from the local legal and sports sectors and professional dispute resolution practitioners from 23 jurisdictions, as well as experienced experts in international sports mediation and arbitration. AALCO-HKRAC will continue to process applications for inclusion on the panels and update the panels accordingly.

The DoJ has been actively organising and supporting talent training on sports dispute resolution and will continue to promote the development of sports dispute resolution in collaboration with the legal and sports sectors (including the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China), thereby advancing Hong Kong's development as an international centre for sports dispute resolution. Efforts made by the DoJ in this regard include co-organising the Sports Arbitration Demonstration with the Hong Kong Bar Association and Hong Kong Baptist University on 9 October 2025; and serving as a supporting organisation of the 1st and 2nd AALCO Sports Mediation Training Programmes held in January and September 2025 respectively, and eBRAM's Certified Online Dispute Resolution Training Course (Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution Special Session) on 11 and 25 February 2026. The DoJ will organise a sports mediation seminar during the Mediation Week in May 2026 and a sports dispute resolution workshop in the 2nd quarter of 2026.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ044

(Question Serial No. 3353)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

It is mentioned in the Programme that the Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution (the Pilot Scheme) will be implemented to advance Hong Kong's development as an international centre for sports dispute resolution. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. How has the Pilot Scheme operated since its implementation? How many sports dispute cases have been handled to date, and what types of cases were involved? What is the average processing time?
2. What specific strategies has the Government adopted to advance Hong Kong's development as an international centre for sports dispute resolution? Will the Government enhance training for relevant local talents (e.g. sports mediators and sports arbitrators)?

Asked by: Hon FAN Chun-wah, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

1. The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre (AALCO-HKRAC) and eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre Limited (eBRAM) serve as the administering body and the technology provider respectively for the Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution (the Pilot Scheme), which has been accepting applications for mediation and arbitration of sports disputes since 13 February 2026 and adopts a "mediation first, arbitration next" approach to resolve commercial and non-commercial sports disputes. The Pilot Scheme will run for 2 years and will be reviewed in due course. The designated online platform for sports dispute resolution (the Online Platform) under the Pilot Scheme is technically supported by eBRAM and operated independently by AALCO-HKRAC. Parties to sports disputes may resolve their disputes through the Online Platform, which allows users to submit claims, upload documents and evidence, conduct online hearings and apply for government subsidies for eligible cases. Given that the Pilot Scheme is still in its early phase of implementation, information on the number of sports dispute cases handled, types of cases and average processing time is not available at this stage.

2. Leveraging Hong Kong's strengths as a centre for international legal and dispute resolution services, the Government is committed to developing Hong Kong into an international centre for sports dispute resolution through institutional development, talent training and enhanced promotion.

Regarding institutional development, the Pilot Scheme provides specialised mediation and arbitration services for sports-related disputes. Its Online Platform, incorporating LawTech, expedites the dispute resolution process and reduces costs, making it particularly suitable for athletes with short professional careers and tight competition schedules, and encourages parties involved in international or cross-boundary sports disputes to choose Hong Kong as the venue for dispute resolution.

As for talent training, the Government will continue to leverage Hong Kong's strengths as the home to a large pool of legal and dispute resolution talents with extensive expertise and experience. In the area of sports dispute resolution, as of 6 March 2026, there were a total of 110 arbitrators with expertise in sports on the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre's panel and list of arbitrators, and 153 mediators with expertise in sports on the Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited's panel of mediators. At present, there are 53 mediators and 43 arbitrators on the panels of sports mediators and sports arbitrators respectively under the Pilot Scheme, including those from the local legal and sports sectors and dispute resolution practitioners from 23 jurisdictions, as well as experienced experts in international sports mediation and arbitration. AALCO-HKRAC will continue to process applications for inclusion on the panels and update the panels accordingly.

The Government has been actively organising and supporting talent training on sports dispute resolution and will continue to promote the development of sports dispute resolution in collaboration with the legal and sports sectors (including the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China), thereby advancing Hong Kong's development as an international centre for sports dispute resolution. Efforts made by the Department of Justice (DoJ) in this regard include co-organising the Sports Arbitration Demonstration with the Hong Kong Bar Association and Hong Kong Baptist University on 9 October 2025; and serving as a supporting organisation of the 1st and 2nd AALCO Sports Mediation Training Programmes held in January and September 2025 respectively, and eBRAM's Certified Online Dispute Resolution Training Course (Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution Special Session) on 11 and 25 February 2026. The DoJ will organise a sports mediation seminar during the Mediation Week in May 2026 and a sports dispute resolution workshop in the 2nd quarter of 2026.

On the promotion front, the Government will step up international publicity and exchanges to promote Hong Kong's strengths in sports dispute resolution, thereby reinforcing Hong Kong's status as a centre for international legal and dispute resolution services.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ045

(Question Serial No. 3414)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 153 of the Budget Speech that the Department of Justice is preparing for the development of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building as a new landmark of international legal hub. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) As of March 2026, how many resources and how much funding has the Government allocated to the eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre?
- (2) To actively promote the adoption of the online platform by the legal profession, what expenditures have been incurred on publicity and platform enhancements since its launch?
- (3) Since its launch, what has been the year-on-year change in the number of legal professionals and law firms registered on the online platform?

Asked by: Hon HO King-hong, Adrian Pedro (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

1. The Government has been actively supporting the development of online dispute resolution and deal-making platforms (Online Platforms) by eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre Limited (eBRAM), a non-governmental organisation, to facilitate convenient and cost-effective online deal-making and dispute resolution services in Hong Kong and further strengthen Hong Kong's role as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre.

In 2020, the COVID-19 Online Dispute Resolution Scheme (COVID-19 ODR Scheme) was established by the Government through the funding support of \$70 million under the Anti-epidemic Fund, and eBRAM was commissioned as the service provider of the COVID-19 ODR Scheme. In January 2021, the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved the funding support of \$100 million for eBRAM to develop the Online Platforms. The funding support has been released in phases since 2021 in accordance with

the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government and eBRAM. Around \$87 million has been released by the Government to eBRAM as at February 2026.

2. As a local non-governmental organisation, eBRAM utilises its resources independently to manage, maintain and upgrade the systems of the relevant Online Platforms and to promote and publicise its online deal-making and dispute resolution services. Expenditures for promotion and enhancement of the Online Platforms are part of its internal operating arrangements. eBRAM aims to operate on a self-financing basis after government funding support ends.

The Government has been closely monitoring and following up on, among others, the operations, development of the Online Platforms and marketing plans of eBRAM. In view of eBRAM's independent operation and its future development direction towards a self-financing model, the Government has maintained ongoing communication with it and continued to review its operational effectiveness. Under established arrangements, funding would be released after a thorough assessment of its operations have been conducted.

According to the report submitted by eBRAM, the usage of its Online Platforms has seen an obvious upward trend, demonstrating that its efforts to promote and enhance them are effective. For instance, the number of users of its online Deal-making Portal increased by more than 3.5 times in the previous year (i.e., from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025). The numbers of cases handled through its online Mediation Platform and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Online Dispute Resolution Platform (APEC ODR Platform) (including those under the Pro-bono Online Mediation Scheme for Water Seepage Disputes) rose by more than 5 times and 20 times respectively, compared with the previous year.

eBRAM is also actively aligning its work with government policies and measures. Such efforts include the launch of the GoGlobal eHub under the online Deal-making Portal in March 2026 to enhance connections between Mainland enterprises going global and Hong Kong's professional services (including the legal and dispute resolution sectors), thereby further promoting the use of the online Deal-making Portal by the legal sector to meet the service needs of Mainland enterprises expanding overseas.

3. According to data provided by eBRAM, the numbers of panel arbitrators and mediators on the Online Platforms and registered users on the online Deal-making Portal for the years leading up to 2024-25 are as follows:

	Numbers of panellists/registered users (by year)				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
COVID-19 ODR Scheme Panel of Arbitrators [Note 1]	81	81	81	N.A.	N.A.
COVID-19 ODR Scheme Panel of Mediators [Note 1]	86	86	85	N.A.	N.A.
eBRAM Panel of APEC Neutrals [Note 2]	N.A.	48	72	92	126
eBRAM Panel of Arbitrators [Note 2]	N.A.	112	162	202	257
eBRAM Panel of Mediators [Note 2]	N.A.	48	84	99	142
Online Deal-making Portal [Note 3]	N.A.	N.A.	Over 20	157	713

In view of the above, the usage of the Online Platforms developed by eBRAM has shown a steady upward trend since their launch, reflecting the growing market demand for their services.

The Government will continue to support eBRAM in enhancing the functions of its Online Platforms and encourage it to foster a closer collaboration with local and overseas institutions to promote the use of LawTech, with a view to further strengthening Hong Kong's role as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre.

Note 1: The COVID-19 ODR Platform was launched in June 2020. As the pandemic was over, the relevant scheme ended in September 2023.

Note 2: The APEC ODR Platform of eBRAM was launched in May 2022, followed by the official launch of the online Mediation Platform and the online Arbitration Platform in October 2022.

Note 3: The Deal-making Portal, launched by eBRAM in December 2023, serves registered users from enterprises in various sectors, including the legal, professional and commercial services, and information technology sectors in Hong Kong, the Mainland and other regions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ046

(Question Serial No. 3340)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

The Department of Justice is preparing for the development of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building and the preparatory works will commence this year. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) What studies have been conducted and what is the specific timetable for the project?
- 2) Will the Government consider providing office space for local legal bodies to enhance exchange and collaboration among legal professionals in Hong Kong?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 39)

Reply:

(1)

The Department of Justice (DoJ) is preparing for the development of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building (the Building). Preparatory works, including site investigation and technical studies on utilities, quantity surveying, etc., will commence within this year in preparation for seeking funding approval for the construction project. Upon securing the funding, our target is to commence construction by the end of 2027. As the project is still in the planning and study stage, other specific details such as the project timetable are not yet available.

(2)

The Building will house international and local legal and dispute resolution services institutions, and will also include venues for international legal conferences as well as arbitration and mediation facilities, etc. The DoJ is currently preparing for the development of the Building. Relevant arrangements and information regarding the move-in of legal and dispute resolution services institutions to the Building will be announced in a timely manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ047

(Question Serial No. 3341)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

The Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy (the Academy) was officially launched in November 2024. Making good use of Hong Kong's bilingual common law system and international status, the Academy regularly organises practical legal courses, seminars and international exchange programmes to promote international legal talent exchanges among regions along the Belt and Road. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) activities or courses organised by the Academy since its establishment, their target participants, number of participants, duration, and qualifications of teaching staff; and
- 2) the expenditure for each of the above courses?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

- (1) Since its launch in November 2024, the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy (the Academy) of the Department of Justice (DoJ) has collaborated with more than 20 international legal organisations, relevant Chinese Mainland authorities, local professional bodies, etc. in organising over 20 capacity-building programmes within and outside Hong Kong for legal professionals in Hong Kong, the Chinese Mainland and regions along the Belt and Road (B&R). As at 31 March 2026, the Academy has organised and sponsored the following capacity-building programmes:

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Training programme</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Qualifications of trainers</u>
1.	6 to 17 January 2025	Hong Kong Common Law Practical Training Course (co-organised with the Supreme People's Court	Judges from the SPC of the PRC, the High People's Court of Guangdong Province and courts of the 9 Chinese Mainland municipalities in the	2 weeks	Judges, judicial officers, and experienced legal professionals in Hong Kong, and members of the Hong Kong International

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Training programme</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Qualifications of trainers</u>
		(SPC) of the People's Republic of China (PRC))	Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area		Legal Talents Training Expert Committee (Expert Committee)
2.	16 February to 1 March 2025	National Training Course for Talents Handling Foreign-related Arbitration (Hong Kong) (co-organised with the Ministry of Justice of the PRC)	Mainland in-house counsel, experienced arbitrators, lawyers and arbitration practitioners	2 weeks (divided into 2 classes, 1 week per class)	Experienced legal professionals in Hong Kong, and members of the Expert Committee
3.	14 March 2025	Conference on Climate Change and International Trade Law (co-organised with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL))	Local and overseas legal professionals	1 day	Academics, judges, government officials, legal and dispute resolution professionals, other professionals, and representatives of international organisations
4.	5 May 2025	Panel Discussion on Capacity Building for International Legal Co-operation at World Law Congress 2025	Legal professionals from around the world	0.5 day	Members of the Expert Committee including Secretary General of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), Secretary-General of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), associate professor of Universidad Externado de Colombia, and a representative of UNCITRAL
5.	24 to 26 May 2025	Hong Kong Common Law and Dispute Resolution Practical Training Course (with the assistance of the Shaanxi Province Lawyers Association)	Lawyers from Shaanxi Province and 13 surrounding provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities	3 days	Experienced legal and dispute resolution professionals in Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland
6.	13 to 14 June 2025	Mainland Civil and Commercial Legal Practice Training Course 2025	Local legal sector including barristers, solicitors, in-house counsel and dispute resolution practitioners	2 days	Judges of the SPC of the PRC and the High People's Court of Guangdong Province, senior law

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Training programme</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Qualifications of trainers</u>
					professors, lawyers, in-house counsel and representatives of arbitration institutions in the Chinese Mainland, and members of the Expert Committee
7.	4 to 9 July 2025	8th Training Session of China-Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization Exchange and Research Program on International Law: Hong Kong SAR Session (the Academy as sponsoring organisation)	Diplomats and government officials in Asia and Africa	6 days	Experienced legal professionals and academics from Hong Kong and overseas, and representatives of international organisations
8.	10 July 2025	Thematic seminar titled “Hong Kong as a Gateway to the Asia Pacific” (co-organised with UNIDROIT)	Legal and business communities in Italy and Europe	0.5 day	The Ambassador of China to Italy, the Secretary-General of UNIDROIT, and the Secretary for Justice of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government
9.	21 to 25 July 2025	“Belt and Road” Visit for Hong Kong Young International Legal Talents (co-organised with the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC in the HKSAR)	Hong Kong young legal talents	5 days	Personnel from the relevant authorities and organisations receiving the visiting delegation
10.	9 August 2025	Workshop on Use of International Instruments to Legally Enable End-to-End Digitalization of Trade (co-organised with UNCITRAL)	Officials, and experts and academics in international trade law from Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation economies	1 day	Experts in international trade law and policymakers from various economies, the Secretary-General of UNCITRAL, and legal professionals
11.	8 to 9 September 2025	Training Programme on Common Law and International	Judges, international legal and dispute resolution sector, and students	2 days	Experienced legal professionals in Hong Kong, and the

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Training programme</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Qualifications of trainers</u>
		Arbitration (co-organised with UNIDROIT)			Secretary-General of UNIDROIT
12.	12 to 13 September 2025	Conference on International Criminal Justice in the Contemporary Asia-Pacific Region (the Academy as sponsoring organisation)	Legal professionals and students	2 days	Experienced legal professionals and academics from Hong Kong, the Chinese Mainland and overseas
13.	24 September 2025	Seminar on Trends in Combating Money Laundering and Corruption	Prosecutors-general and delegation members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations member states, and local legal professionals	0.5 day	Representatives of the International Monetary Fund
14.	19 to 25 October 2025	Legal Practical Training Course for Chinese Enterprises Going Overseas	Legal counsel and relevant professionals from state-owned enterprises	5 days	Experienced legal professionals and academics from Hong Kong and overseas, and members of the Expert Committee
15.	3 to 5 November 2025	The 3rd Training Course for Legal Departments in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area 2025	Personnel from the legal departments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao	3 days	Senior legal officers, and local experts with a wealth of practical experience
16.	23 to 25 November 2025	The Shanghai Foreign-Related Adjudication Talent Training Course (co-organised with the Shanghai High People's Court)	Judges from the first batch of foreign-related adjudication talent pool from Shanghai, and core foreign-related adjudication judges from Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Anhui	2.5 days	Experienced legal professionals in Hong Kong
17.	24 November 2025	Hong Kong Common Law Day (co-organised with the East China University of Political Science and Law)	Academics and students	1 day	Experts from universities, judicial and legal practice sectors in Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland
18.	29 November to 5 December 2025	The Hague Academy of International Law's Advanced Course 2025 (the Academy as sponsoring organisation)	Government officials and legal professionals from various jurisdictions	6 days	Experienced legal academics from Hong Kong, the Chinese Mainland and overseas

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Training programme</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Qualifications of trainers</u>
19.	1 to 2 December 2025	The 6th UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Judicial Summit 2025 (co-organised with UNCITRAL)	Judges, legal professionals, and government officials	1.5 days	Experienced legal professionals, experts, academics, and judges from Hong Kong and overseas
20.	3 December 2025	Symposium of the HCCH Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific on Private International Law (co-organised with the HCCH Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific)	Judges, legal professionals, and government officials	0.5 day	Experienced legal professionals, experts, and academics from Hong Kong and overseas
21.	13 to 23 January 2026	Hong Kong Common Law Practical Training Course - Company Law in Focus (co-organised with the SPC of the PRC)	Experienced Mainland judges	8 days	Leading legal academics, experts, and experienced judges in Hong Kong
22.	8 to 21 March 2026	National Training Course for Talents Handling Foreign-related Arbitration (Hong Kong) (co-organised with the Ministry of Justice of the PRC)	Mainland in-house counsel, experienced arbitrators, lawyers, arbitration practitioners, etc.	2 weeks (divided into 2 classes, 1 week per class)	Experienced legal professionals and international arbitration experts in Hong Kong, members of the Expert Committee, and a representative from the Permanent Court of Arbitration

The proportion of participants of the training programmes is set out below:

	Target participants of training programmes	Number of participants
1.	Specifically targeting overseas legal sector (including countries along the B&R from Southeast Asia and other regions)	About 150
2.	Specifically targeting Chinese Mainland legal sector	About 300
3.	Specifically targeting local legal sector	About 300
4.	Targeting overseas, Chinese Mainland and local legal sectors at the same time (including countries along the B&R from Southeast Asia and other regions)	About 1 500

- (2) The Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Office (the Training Office) is responsible for planning and organising capacity-building programmes of the Academy. At present, the establishment of the Training Office comprises 4 time-limited posts for a period of 5 years, including 1 time-limited post of Assistant Principal Government

Counsel (DL1)/DL1-equivalent non-civil service position (i.e. Director of the Training Office). The annual salary cost of the post is \$2,088,840. The remaining 3 time-limited posts include 1 Senior Government Counsel post (i.e. Deputy Director of the Training Office), 1 Government Counsel post (i.e. Assistant Director of the Training Office) and 1 Law Clerk post (i.e. Programme Coordinator of the Training Office). The annual salary cost of these 3 non-directorate posts is \$3,303,360. The training programmes are supported by different units of the DoJ and the relevant personnel are concurrently responsible for other duties. As the expenditures on the above training programmes, covering overseas promotion, invitation of internationally renowned trainers, manpower for organising and supporting legal talent training programmes and other related costs, are absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ, the expenditure of training programmes cannot be separately identified.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ048

(Question Serial No. 3605)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (2) Civil

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026-27, it is stated that the Department of Justice (DoJ) will implement the Pilot Scheme on Community Mediation together with the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- 1) The DoJ launched a community mediation training course specifically designed for property management personnel last year. It is anticipated that 4 similar training sessions will be held before March this year. What are the staffing and estimated expenditure for these training sessions?
- 2) Has the DoJ evaluated the effectiveness of the training course? Has it raised public awareness of using mediation to resolve disputes, thereby saving court time and expenditure?
- 3) It is indicated in Programme (2) that there will be a net decrease of 9 posts in 2026-27. What are the details of these posts and the expenditure involved?
- 4) Will this net reduction in staffing affect the implementation of the Pilot Scheme? If yes, please specify how. If not, please explain the reasons.

Asked by: Hon KAN Wai-mun, Carmen (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

1. The Department of Justice (DoJ), the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) launched the 2-year Pilot Scheme on Community Mediation (the Pilot Scheme) in the 2nd quarter of 2025. Tailored for property management personnel, the Pilot Scheme aims to enhance their mediation skills through professional training to better handle common community disputes (such as water seepage and other neighbour conflicts). The training content integrates both theory and practice. In addition to covering fundamental mediation knowledge, it strengthens participants' practical application skills via interactive teaching methods such as scenario simulations and role-playing, enabling them to serve as competent frontline co-ordinators

in community disputes, thereby effectively fostering community harmony. As of February 2026, 7 training sessions had been conducted. It is expected that a total of 9 training sessions will be conducted by May 2026. Under the current plan, the Pilot Scheme is expected to deliver a total of 21 training sessions. The relevant work is mainly undertaken by the Alternative Dispute Resolution Unit under the Civil Division of the DoJ. Its establishment is as follows:

Unit	Existing establishment
Alternative Dispute Resolution Unit	1 Principal Government Counsel, 1 Deputy Principal Government Counsel, 6 Senior Government Counsel, 8 Government Counsel, 3 Law Clerks, 2 Personal Secretaries I, 1 Personal Secretary II and 2 Assistant Clerical Officers

The above initiative is an inter-departmental collaboration project. The related expenditures will continue to be absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ and the EEB, hence the specific estimated expenditure and manpower of the DoJ for the Pilot Scheme cannot be separately identified.

2. The response to the Pilot Scheme since its launch has been overwhelming, with about 160 property management personnel trained so far. To meet the demand, the DoJ has arranged additional training courses together with the EEB and the FEHD. The Pilot Scheme is expected to deliver a total of 21 training sessions. Based on the course design of approximately 20 to 25 trainees per class, the total number of participants of the entire training scheme is projected to be about 500, with the actual number depending on enrolment and attendance. The DoJ has been working closely with the EEB and the FEHD to continuously review the implementation of the Pilot Scheme, including collecting trainees' views on the courses through questionnaires. The trainees generally indicated that the skills acquired were practical and helpful in addressing everyday community disputes. Enhancing the mediation skills of property management personnel equips them to try to address common community disputes, which in turn is expected to prevent such disputes from escalating to litigation, and ease the caseload burden on the courts in the long run. Since community or neighbour disputes are largely of a private nature and do not require formal reporting, it is difficult to conduct a statistical or quantitative analysis on the actual effectiveness of the training courses in terms of court time or expenditure saved.
3. The DoJ will create 3 posts and delete 12 posts in the Civil Division in 2026-27, reducing about \$840,000 in the overall annual salary cost. The creation and deletion of posts are mainly attributed to the restructuring of duties. The work involved includes undertaking civil litigation, providing legal advice and rendering logistics support.
4. The operation of the Pilot Scheme is supported by the existing manpower (see the table above), and the net reduction in staffing does not affect the establishment shown in the table. Consequently, the implementation of the Pilot Scheme will not be affected.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ049

(Question Serial No. 3537)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (2) Civil

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

Regarding the implementation of the Pilot Scheme on Community Mediation (the Pilot Scheme), would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) What are the respective expenditures and staffing for implementing the Pilot Scheme in 2025-26 and 2026-27;
- (2) As of 28 February 2026, how many training sessions have been conducted under the Pilot Scheme, how many participants have completed the training, and what is the average cost of the training?
- (3) How many cases have been recorded in which graduates of the Pilot Scheme's training courses have applied mediation skills and resources to resolve disputes?
- (4) Has the Government established a mechanism to monitor how graduates apply mediation skills and resources in practice and to collect feedback for continuous improvement of the Pilot Scheme, with a view to achieving its policy objectives? If yes, please provide details. If not, please explain the reasons and whether such a mechanism will be established.
- (5) What are the respective expenditures for promoting the Pilot Scheme in 2025-26 and 2026-27?
- (6) Has the Government considered expanding the Pilot Scheme beyond the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to other policy bureaux or departments? If yes, please outline the plan. If not, please explain the considerations.

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Tsz-wing, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

- (1) The Department of Justice (DoJ), the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) launched the 2-year Pilot Scheme on Community Mediation (the Pilot Scheme) in the 2nd quarter of 2025.

The relevant work is mainly undertaken by the Alternative Dispute Resolution Unit under the Civil Division of the DoJ. Its establishment is as follows:

Unit	Existing establishment
Alternative Dispute Resolution Unit	1 Principal Government Counsel, 1 Deputy Principal Government Counsel, 6 Senior Government Counsel, 8 Government Counsel, 3 Law Clerks, 2 Personal Secretaries I, 1 Personal Secretary II and 2 Assistant Clerical Officers

As the work is undertaken by these officers among their other duties, the manpower and estimated expenditure involved are not separately identified. We have no plans at this stage to increase the estimate of expenditure or the manpower for the relevant work.

- (2) As of 28 February 2026, 7 training sessions had been conducted and around 160 trainees had been trained under the Pilot Scheme. This initiative is an inter-departmental collaboration project. The related expenditures will continue to be absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ and the EEB, hence the specific expenditures of the DoJ for the Pilot Scheme cannot be separately identified.
- (3) The objective of the Pilot Scheme is to empower graduates to apply the acquired mediation skills in their everyday work and life to handle conflicts and disputes at the community level. Since they do not formally handle dispute cases as mediators but instead flexibly apply the skills in everyday situations, no specific statistics are kept on the number of cases they have handled.
- (4) The DoJ has been working closely with the EEB and the FEHD to continuously review the implementation of the Pilot Scheme, including collecting trainees' views on the courses through questionnaires. The trainees generally indicated that the skills acquired were practical and helpful in addressing everyday community disputes. Taking into account the trainees' feedback and the practical experience in implementation, the DoJ will continue to co-operate with the relevant departments to refine the course content and arrangements, so as to achieve the policy objectives of enhancing the mediation skills of frontline personnel and fostering community harmony.
- (5) The Pilot Scheme is an inter-departmental collaboration project. The related promotional expenditures will continue to be absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ and the EEB, hence the specific expenditures of the DoJ for promoting the Pilot Scheme cannot be separately identified.
- (6) To achieve the policy objectives of deepening the mediation culture in the community and fostering community harmony, property management personnel are the target participants under the Pilot Scheme, as they are often the first to handle conflicts and disputes at the community level. The Pilot Scheme focuses on enhancing their mediation skills to better handle common community disputes (such as water seepage

and other neighbour conflicts). The Pilot Scheme is expected to deliver a total of 21 training sessions. Based on the course design of approximately 20 to 25 trainees per class, the total number of participants of the entire training scheme is projected to be about 500, with the actual number depending on enrolment and attendance. At this stage, the Pilot Scheme focuses on providing training for property management personnel. The DoJ will continue to review the implementation of the Pilot Scheme and make refinements as necessary.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ050

(Question Serial No. 3539)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (3) Constitutional and Policy Affairs

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

Regarding the promotion of the Basic Law, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) What are the expenditures and manpower for promotion of the Basic Law in 2025-26 and 2026-27 respectively?
- (2) What activities were conducted to promote the Basic Law over the past year? Please list their names, types, target participants, number of participants, and expenditures.
- (3) What are the Government's plans to keep strengthening the promotion of the Basic Law in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Tsz-wing, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

1. As to manpower and expenditures for promotion of the Basic Law, all officers of different divisions of the Department of Justice (DoJ) need to take part in the relevant work. In particular, the Basic Law Unit (BLU) under the Constitutional and Policy Affairs Division plays the most instrumental role.

The establishment and estimated annual expenditure on emoluments of the BLU are tabulated below:

Establishment	Estimated annual expenditure on emoluments (notional annual mid-point salary)	
	2025-26	2026-27
1 Deputy Principal Government Counsel, 4 Senior Government Counsel, 1 Government	\$11,868,300	\$11,868,300

Establishment	Estimated annual expenditure on emoluments (notional annual mid-point salary)	
Counsel, 1 Law Clerk, 1 Personal Secretary I and 2 Personal Secretaries II		

Note: As the promotion work is/was undertaken by the staff of the BLU among their other duties, the manpower and expenditure actually involved cannot be separately identified. The expenditures on the relevant promotion work are absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ.

2. The DoJ has been promoting a proper understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law across the community through different activities, including legal conferences, seminars and publications. The details of such activities of the DoJ in the past year are as follows:

(i) The Basic Law Bulletin

The Basic Law Bulletin is a periodical jointly published by the DoJ, the Civil Service Bureau and the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau to enhance the understanding of the Basic Law and the constitutional order of the HKSAR among civil servants and the general public. The Bulletin features theme articles, summaries of Basic Law cases and the decisions of the President of the Legislative Council on Members' bills. The latest issue (i.e., Issue No. 27) was uploaded in December 2025, featuring a theme article on the role of the National People's Congress (NPC) and the Standing Committee of the NPC (NPCSC) under the Basic Law, explaining that the NPC is both the founder of the Basic Law and the guardian of "One Country, Two Systems".

(ii) Basic Law seminars

DoJ counsel have been conducting Basic Law seminars for the training of civil servants to enhance their understanding of the Basic Law. The DoJ organised 4 Basic Law seminars in collaboration with the Civil Service College in 2025 with details as follows:

2025					
	Date	Title	Type	Target participants	Number of participants
1.	2 April 2025 p.m.	Basic Law seminar	Seminar	Serving civil servants	476
2.	12 June 2025 p.m.	Basic Law seminar	Seminar	Serving civil servants	273
3.	21 August 2025 p.m.	Basic Law seminar	Seminar	Serving civil servants	354
4.	30 September 2025 p.m.	Basic Law seminar	Seminar	Serving civil servants	370

(iii) Basic Law conference

Year 2025 marked the 35th anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law. The DoJ organised the Basic Law 35th Anniversary Legal Summit on 4 December 2025 (Constitution Day), elucidating that the Constitution is the

supreme law of the State and the legal source of the Basic Law and that the Constitution and the Basic Law jointly form the constitutional basis of the HKSAR.

At the Summit, Mr YANG Zhaoye, the Director of the Research Office of the HKSAR Basic Law Committee of the NPCSC delivered a keynote speech on “The Basic Law - 28 Years’ Practice and Insights”. A symposium titled “The Basic Law as the Guardian and Promotor of Hong Kong’s status as ‘three Centres and a Hub’” was also held during the Summit. Leaders from the financial, aviation, trade and higher education sectors were invited to share their insights on how the HKSAR leverages its institutional strengths under the Basic Law and the principle of “One Country, Two Systems” to strengthen its status as an international centre in finance, aviation and trade and gives full play to its fine traditions in higher education to help develop Hong Kong into an international hub for high-calibre talents. The Summit was attended by 282 participants, including legal practitioners, civil servants and members of the business and education sectors. The entire event has been uploaded to the website of the Information Services Department for public viewing.

The DoJ has been assisting other government departments in organising publicity, educational and promotional activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law, such as providing advice on the Education Bureau’s teaching materials on the Constitution and the Basic Law for secondary and primary schools, offering comments on and acting as adjudicators in various exhibitions, promotional videos and quiz competitions on the Constitution and the Basic Law.

3. Looking ahead, the DoJ will continue its effort to enhance the understanding of the Basic Law and the constitutional order of the HKSAR across the community, in particular the civil service, through different activities including seminars and publications. As in the past, the DoJ will continue to play an active role in assisting other government departments in organising various publicity and promotional activities on the Constitution and the Basic Law.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ051

(Question Serial No. 3541)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (5) International Law

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

International legal talent is a vital resource for Hong Kong's future development, and the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy (the Academy) plays a key role in nurturing such talents in Hong Kong. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) In last year, how many Hong Kong permanent residents and non-permanent residents participated in activities organised by the Academy respectively?
- (2) Since its establishment, how many activities has the Academy organised within and outside Hong Kong?
- (3) In 2026-27, what is the estimate for organising and supporting capacity-building activities for local, regional and international legal professionals, and what are the anticipated outcomes?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Tsz-wing, Dennis (LegCo internal reference no.: 29)

Reply:

- (1) Since its launch in November 2024, the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy (the Academy) has provided professional practical training programmes in Hong Kong, the Chinese Mainland and overseas for over 2 000 participants from various places. While some of these programmes were specifically designed for the overseas, the Chinese Mainland or the local legal sector, other programmes, such as international conferences, brought together participants from all these places. The proportion of participants of the training programmes is set out below (a breakdown by the categories of Hong Kong permanent residents and non-permanent residents is not available):

	Target participants of training programmes	Number of participants
1.	Specifically targeting overseas legal sector (including countries along the Belt and Road (B&R) from Southeast Asia and other regions)	About 150
2.	Specifically targeting Chinese Mainland legal sector	About 300
3.	Specifically targeting local legal sector	About 300
4.	Targeting overseas, Chinese Mainland and local legal sectors at the same time (including countries along the B&R from Southeast Asia and other regions)	About 1 500

- (2) Since its launch, the Academy has organised over 13 training programmes and activities in Hong Kong, and over 10 training programmes and activities outside Hong Kong.
- (3) The Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Office (the Training Office) is responsible for planning and organising capacity-building programmes of the Academy. At present, the establishment of the Training Office comprises 4 time-limited posts for a period of 5 years, including 1 time-limited post of Assistant Principal Government Counsel (DL1)/DL1-equivalent non-civil service position (i.e. Director of the Training Office). The annual salary cost of the post is \$2,088,840. The remaining 3 time-limited posts include 1 Senior Government Counsel post (i.e. Deputy Director of the Training Office), 1 Government Counsel post (i.e. Assistant Director of the Training Office) and 1 Law Clerk post (i.e. Programme Coordinator of the Training Office). The annual salary cost of these 3 non-directorate posts is \$3,303,360. The training programmes are supported by different units of the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the relevant personnel are concurrently responsible for other duties. The target participants for the training programmes of the Academy in 2026-27 are expected to be similar to those listed in the table above. As the manpower and other related expenditures required for overseas promotion, inviting internationally renowned trainers, and organising and supporting legal talent training programmes will be absorbed by the existing resources of the DoJ, the estimated expenditure for the training programmes cannot be separately identified. Furthermore, the Academy will actively collaborate with more legal bodies, countries and legal professional bodies to provide customised practical programmes on various legal topics, and will also regularly organise training courses for legal talents from different jurisdictions, especially those from the regions along the B&R, to foster international legal talent exchanges. In addition, the Academy will actively promote the institutional advantages of Hong Kong under “One Country, Two Systems”, with a view to further consolidating Hong Kong’s status as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific region, attracting more legal bodies and talents to Hong Kong for development, and encouraging the Chinese Mainland and other countries and regions to make good use of Hong Kong’s top-notch professional legal services.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ052

(Question Serial No. 3418)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (4) Law Drafting

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

It is mentioned in the Budget that the Government will establish the Committee on AI+ and Industry Development Strategy. In this connection, please advise whether resources have been earmarked for conducting studies on legal regulatory frameworks related to AI (e.g. data privacy) in 2026-27. What is the expenditure involved and what is the timetable? Will public consultation documents be issued in phases? If yes, when will they be issued?

Asked by: Hon NG Wing-ka, Jimmy (LegCo internal reference no.: 210)

Reply:

The Financial Secretary mentioned in the Budget that he would establish and chair the Committee on AI+ and Industry Development Strategy to formulate strategies and create favourable conditions for AI to empower the transformation and development of industries. The details will be announced in due course.

Regarding studies on legal regulatory frameworks related to AI, the Secretary for Justice convened a Steering Committee meeting on the establishment of the Inter-Departmental Working Group to Review Legislation to Support Wider Application of Artificial Intelligence (the Working Group) on 6 March. At the meeting, the purpose of the Working Group and its mode of operation under the superintendence of the Steering Committee were discussed. Core members of the Working Group will be drawn from various policy bureaux and Government departments (including the Judiciary Administration, the Administration Wing and the Digital Policy Office).

For the time being, the work of the Steering Committee and the Working Group is supported by existing Government resources. As the review exercise has only just begun and covers a wide array of legislation across different policy areas and work portfolios, the Department of Justice could devise a more concrete implementation strategy and mode of collaboration for the Working Group only after finishing preliminary studies alongside the relevant bureaux and departments. It is therefore not feasible to elaborate at this juncture on a timeline and whether public consultation will be conducted in phases.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SJ053

(Question Serial No. 3550)

Head: (92) Department of Justice

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Administration and Development (Amy YUEN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Justice

Question:

The Department of Justice is preparing for the development of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building (the Building) and the preparatory works will commence this year. In this connection, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the proposed site, scale, functional layout and estimated completion schedule for the Building?
2. What are the overall project estimate, financing arrangements (if any) and oversight mechanism for the project?
3. What indicators will the Government use to evaluate its effectiveness in reinforcing Hong Kong's status as an international legal hub?

Asked by: Hon WU Yingpeng (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

Reply:

1 & 2.

The Department of Justice (DoJ) is preparing for the development of the Hong Kong International Legal Service Building (the Building) adjacent to the International Organization for Mediation headquarters. The Building will house international and local legal and dispute resolution services institutions, and will also include venues for international legal conferences as well as arbitration and mediation facilities, etc. Preparatory works, including site investigation and consultancy studies, will commence within this year in preparation for seeking funding approval for the construction project. Upon securing the funding, our target is to commence construction by the end of 2027. As the project is still in the planning and study stage, other specific details such as project estimate and completion schedule are not yet available.

The development of the Building is a Government capital works project. The funding application will be submitted to the Public Works Subcommittee of the Legislative Council

for consideration, and subsequently to the Finance Committee for approval. Regarding the project estimate and fiscal control, the Government always rigorously scrutinises cost estimates of major projects during the planning and design stage. On the premise that the functionality, quality and safety of works will not be compromised, the Government implements projects based on the proposed cost estimates and in accordance with the principle of “fitness-for-purpose and no frills”.

As for project supervision and progress control from a macro perspective, the Development Bureau (DEVB) will closely monitor the implementation programme of projects at the construction stage through a high-level task force, in co-ordination with the Project Surveillance System, for timely intervention so as to mitigate the risks of project delays. At the same time, the Project Strategy and Governance Office under the DEVB also examines major variations to projects during the construction period to ensure that the said variations are cost effective.

Regarding the routine project management and quality assurance mechanism, the DoJ has appointed the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) as the works agent and vote controller to co-ordinate and supervise the projects. The ArchSD undertakes the relevant tasks related to technology, design and construction and stringently monitors project quality and works progress. As for contract management, the ArchSD has put in place a rigorous quality checking mechanism to stringently monitor the contractors’ compliance with the requirements for executing the works. To maximise the effectiveness of the quality checking mechanism, the ArchSD’s project team closely monitors the contractors’ performances at the overall operation level. If a contractor’s performance is found to be unsatisfactory, the project team will immediately strengthen inspections and will seriously demand the contractor to make rectification and improvement to ensure that the project quality and progress meet the contractual requirements.

3.

The DoJ is currently preparing for the development of the Building. We expect that the completion of the Building will further strengthen Hong Kong’s role as an international centre for legal and dispute resolution services, attract more international legal and dispute resolution institutions to establish a presence in Hong Kong, enhance Hong Kong’s capability and capacity in organising legal capacity-building programmes and practical training courses, and attract parties in a dispute, lawyers and other professionals to use Hong Kong’s legal and dispute resolution services. This will not only deepen international exchanges and co-operation, but will also build Hong Kong as the world’s “Capital of Mediation” and a centre for legal exchanges and training of international legal talents.

- End -