

## **Report of the Standing Committee on Media Relations 2021**

1. Pursuant to the resolution of the Council the Press Relations Standing Committee was set up in February 2021 with the following terms of reference:
  - (1) To advise and to make recommendations to the Bar Council in respect of matters of public importance which warrant response from the HKBA pursuant to the objects of the HKBA as set out in the Rules and Regulations of the HKBA.
  - (2) To monitor public comments or criticisms on the HKBA on the conduct or statements of individual members of the Bar Council in discharge of his or her duties.
  - (3) To advise and to make recommendations to the Bar Council to answer public enquiries and, if authorized by the Bar Council, to address public comments or criticisms on HKBA or on the conduct or statements of individual members of the Bar Council in discharge of his or her duties.
  - (4) To reply to enquiries of the press or members of the public on matters which are (a) not controversial, or (b) the Bar Council has already made its position clear to the public, or (c) where the reply is neutral such as that the Bar Council has no comment on the subject.
2. The following persons were appointed as members of the Committee:

(1) Erik SHUM	Chairman
(2) Anita Yip, SC	member
(3) Johnny Ma	member
(4) Eugene Yim	member
(5) Po, Wing Kay	member
(6) Linda Wong	member
(7) Raymond Ho	member
3. The Committee's work in the year includes the following main items:
  - (1) Engaging a freelance translator to provide timely digest and translation into English of press reports/articles for the benefit of the Chairmen, the Committee and the Council.
  - (2) Vetted and made timely responses to incoming enquiries from the Press or members of the public which were uncontroversial or routine. During the course of 2021 the Committee has made dozens of responses to such uncontroversial enquiries.

- (3) For controversial matters or media enquiries, referring the same for decision of the Council for public statements to be issued or by other means of communication with the public.
4. With the establishment of the Committee, the responses to media enquiry had proven to be more efficient and the office bearers of the Council had a better and quicker grasp of the news relating to the work of the Council and its members. Moreover, the Committee alleviates the work of the Secretariat especially when the Committee has a better understanding of the inclination and views of the Council generally such that the responses made to the public reflect the consensus of the Council.
5. It is anticipated that there will be a need for the work of the Committee to continue in future.

Erik SHUM  
Chairman  
Standing Committee on Media Relations

14 December 2021