

Report of the Standing Committee on Bar Insurance 2019

The Primary insurer for the Bar Professional Indemnity Insurance remains as Chubb HK Ltd (“the Insurer”). The mandatory coverage of the Bar Professional Indemnity Insurance is HK\$10,000,000. The renewal premium for the year 2020 is HK\$2,000,000 which has remained the same as the premium for the year 2019.

Reduction of Insurance Premium for 2020

The premium payable is shared amongst all practising members. The Bar secretariat makes a forward projection of the number of practising members for the following year and works out a table of premium allocation, setting out the different levels of premium prescribed for members of different seniority. The aggregate makes up the agreed premium. The aggregate is never the same as the agreed premium. There were surpluses in some years and shortfalls in others. Therefore, the Bar Council has set up a “surplus account” for such surpluses accumulated over the years. It has been the practice of the Bar to maintain a healthy margin for the surplus account for the Bar compulsory insurance. In light of the accumulated surplus premium standing in excess of HK\$1 million, the Standing Committee on Bar Insurance recommended that a 20% reduction in premium for 2020 could be implemented whilst maintaining a healthy margin for the surplus account. The recommendation for a 20% reduction in premium for 2020 has been approved by the Bar Council.

Additional Cyber Insurance Coverage

Through the effort of Mr. Martin Giggins of Willis, our insurance broker in negotiating on behalf of the Bar with the Insurer, the Insurer has agreed to offer an additional Cyber Insurance Coverage (limited to HK\$250,000 for each and very claim per barrister) for the Bar without any additional premium. The Cyber Insurance coverage covers potential risks arising from cyber-attacks including data breach and privacy breach. As there is no additional financial burden for the Bar to obtain this additional coverage, the Standing Committee on Bar Insurance recommended that the Bar to accept the offer. This recommendation has been approved by the Bar Council.

Electronic Platform for the Renewal of Bar Insurance

A pilot scheme for electronic renewal of the Bar Insurance was introduced in 2016 providing an option for members to have their Insurance renewed on the Internet. The Electronic Platform has been well received by members and the feedback has been very positive. The Electric Platform is hyperlinked to the Members Area of the Bar Website. The number of members choosing to renew their Insurance electronically has increased substantially since its launch 3 years ago.

We will continue to focus on meeting members' needs and improving all aspects of the Bar Insurance. However, nothing can be achieved by this Committee without the time and commitment of all its members. It remains for me to thank all members of the Standing Committee on Bar Insurance for their assistance and contributions: Vanessa Kwok (Vice Chairman), Richard Khaw SC, Vincent Lung, Lincoln Cheung and Jeffrey Lee.

Kenny C.P. Lin
Chairman
Standing Committee on Bar Insurance

24 December 2019