

# The Ombudsman welcomes Law Reform Commission's publication of consultation papers on archives law and access to information

The following is issued on behalf of the Office of The Ombudsman:

The Ombudsman, Ms Connie Lau, today (December 6) welcomed the release of consultation papers by the Law Reform Commission (LRC) on archives law and access to information for public consultation.

Ms Lau said, "A system to properly protect public archives and an effective access to information regime are very important in meeting public demand and expectation towards an open and accountable government. With the LRC's extensive and thorough public consultation, I expect substantive progress in the Government's enactment of an archives law and improvement in the access to information regime."

In March 2014, the Office of The Ombudsman published two direct investigation reports on "Public Records Management in Hong Kong" and "The Access to Information Regime in Hong Kong", and made a number of recommendations to the Government including enactment of relevant legislation. The Ombudsman is pleased to note that the two consultation papers by the LRC have taken into account and responded to the Office's views in the direct investigation reports. The Office will carefully examine the issues raised and recommendations made by the LRC.