

Annex A - Letter to member Singapore law practices of Essex Court Chambers Duxton (Singapore Group Practice)

Dear Mr Rajah, Mr Liew, Mr Liang and Mr Tham

We refer to the press release¹ of Essex Court Chambers Duxton (Singapore Group Practice) issued on 14 November 2017 and various articles² which have been published pursuant to the press release, as well as the Channel NewsAsia interview on “Singapore Tonight” on 15 November 2017 (“CNA Interview”), featuring Mr Colin Liew and Mr Calvin Liang.

2. The press release, articles and related statements have created the impression that Essex Court Chambers Duxton (Singapore Group Practice) is part of Essex Court Chambers in London. This is quite contrary to the representations made by the applicant Singapore law firms to the Ministry.

3. We also note that in the CNA Interview on “Singapore Tonight”, two of the sole proprietors of the Singapore group practice, Mr Calvin Liang and Mr Colin Liew, gave the impression that Essex Court Chambers Duxton (Singapore Group Practice) is an annexe of Essex Court Chambers in London. This is again contrary to both the rules in Singapore and the confirmations given to the Ministry.

4. We further note that the background slide during the CNA Interview gave the impression that the Singapore group practice was associated with “Essex Court Chambers”. In this regard, we draw your attention to the condition in the in-principle approval letter of 14 November 2017 that disallows this.

5. In light of the above, please provide a response within 7 days of the date of this letter, as to how the above misimpressions came about; and what steps will be taken to correct them.

Ministry of Law

¹ <https://essexcourtduxton.com/>

² [The Straits Times, “Former A-G ties up with London firm to start self-employed legal practice”, 16 November 2017](#)

[Channel NewsAsia, “Former Attorney-General VK Rajah joins top English Chambers”, 16 November 2017](#)

[Commercial Dispute Resolution, “Landau and Rajah join forces as Essex Court expands in Singapore”, 14 November 2017](#)

[The Lawyer, “Essex Court Chambers becomes biggest UK set in Singapore with four hires”, 15 November 2017](#)

[Global Arbitration Review, “Essex Court Chambers launches in Singapore”, 15 November 2017](#)