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## AGC survey to improve and modernise Singapore statute book

The Attorney-General's Chambers, **Legislation and Law Reform Division** (AGC LLRD), is embarking on a project called PLUS or "Plain Laws Understandable by Singaporeans", to improve accessibility to and modernise the text and design of the Singapore statute book (comprising all of Singapore's written laws).

AGC LLRD is the central legislative drafting office of Singapore. Its mission is to deliver legislative drafting and legislative consultancy services to the Government to implement its policies which require legislation. AGC LLRD also maintains Singapore's official legislation website, Singapore Statutes Online<sup>1</sup>, ensuring ready access by the public to accurate and updated legislation through timely online publication of legislation.

With the changes in our social and economic landscape, there has been growing interest in the contents of our written laws from various segments of our society as well as internationally. There is an increasing trend of Singapore Statutes Online being accessed by business entities and members of public.

The object of the PLUS Project is to ensure that our laws remain drafted and presented in a manner which is clear, readable and more easily understood by the people to whom the laws apply.

The first phase of the PLUS project is an online public survey to better understand the needs, preferences and expectations of the users of Singapore's legislation.

The public survey covers different aspects of legislative drafting and presentation of legislation. These include use of language, aids to understanding, amending language, and the layout and design of published and online legislation.

We welcome all stakeholders and users of Singapore legislation, including Members of Parliament, judges, lawyers, civil servants, business enterprises and crucially, the members of the public to take part in the survey.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> http://statutes.agc.gov.sg

The public can take part in the survey online at <a href="https://research.com.sg/agc/login.php">https://research.com.sg/agc/login.php</a>. The survey will be conducted for from 12 November to 12 December 2013.

This is the first time that AGC is conducting a public survey on legislative drafting. The results of the survey will contribute positively towards the rule of law by helping to develop a Singapore statute book that can be read and more easily understood by Singaporeans.