

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

Reception of Domestic Free Television Programme Services

Purpose

This paper informs Members of the complaints received by the Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) about reception of domestic free television programme services in the past three years and the follow-up actions taken.

The handling of complaints by OFTA

Annex A

2. In the past three years, OFTA received a total of 390 complaints about poor TV reception of domestic free television services (please see Annex A for details). As a standard procedure, OFTA will investigate into each case and evaluate the need for the construction of an additional television transposer for a particular area against the criterion as set down by the Broadcasting Authority (BA), i.e. **a population above 2,000 within a 3 km radius** are being affected, and the technical feasibility of constructing an additional transposer. Once the need is established, OFTA will make a proposal to the BA to direct the two licensees, i.e. Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) and Asia Television Limited (ATV) to construct a television transposer for the area. Clause 7(4)(a) of the First Schedule to the licences of TVB and ATV stipulates that the licensee shall construct such additional relay stations as directed from time to time by the BA.

3. Where the population to area ratio is not met and the reception problem is caused by new buildings in the area, OFTA will, if appropriate, liaise with the developers to explore means of improvement. There are cases that the developer has undertaken to shoulder the costs of the construction of additional transposers. However, this is not a

responsibility stipulated in law.

Factors for setting the priority of additional transposers

4. In making recommendations to the BA regarding the construction of additional transposers, OFTA will consider the following factors in deciding the priority of additional transposers:

- (a) *the technical feasibility of constructing the transposer.* This includes whether suitable frequencies in the radio spectrum are available for use by the transposer for retransmitting the television signals and whether there are suitable locations for constructing the transposer;
- (b) *the population to area ratio,* i.e. whether the affected area falls within a poor reception area covering a radius of 3 kilometers within which the population exceeds 2,000;
- (c) *the actual number of population affected and the seriousness of the situation;* and
- (d) *the chronological order of the problems,* i.e. for how long viewers in a particular area have been affected by poor reception.

Construction of transposers

5. Among the complaints received by OFTA in the past three years, some had been established to satisfy the criteria set out in paragraph 4 above. OFTA has accordingly proposed to the BA to direct the licensees to construct 9 additional transposers. At present, 7 transposers are under construction in Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, Sai Kung, Tsung Kwan O, Northern District and Tung Chung and they are scheduled to be completed by the end of this year or in the first half of 2002 (please see details in Annex B). After completing the feasibility study for Central and Western Districts and Kau Wah Keng of Kwai Chung, OFTA recently proposed to the BA to direct the licensees to construct two additional transposers in

these areas. The recommendations were endorsed by the BA in October 2001. The two licensees have started design work on the two transposers.

Cases under investigation

6. At present, OFTA is following up on two remaining cases. Regarding the complaint by Cheung Chau residents received in September this year, OFTA's initial investigation results show that about 29% of the spots in Cheung Chau are affected by poor reception. OFTA is now studying possible solutions to tackle the problem, including the feasibility of constructing an additional transposer.

7. As regards the complaint about poor reception in the Tsuen Wan area, OFTA is now conducting a comprehensive TV reception survey and study for the area with a view to determining the need and technical feasibility for any additional transposer.

Information Technology and Broadcasting Bureau

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Annex A**Complaint Statistics of Reception Problem for Domestic Free TV
Programme Service in Different Districts**

District	1999	2000	2001 (January - May)	2001 (June - November)
Central & Western	17	11	6	8
Wan Chai	3	14	4	9
Eastern	9	11	3	9
Southern	0	3	1	5
Yau Tsim Mong	2	6	3	4
Sham Shui Po	0	1	3	8
Kowloon City	1	1	0	2
Wong Tai Sin	1	1	1	2
Kwun Tong	1	2	2	7
Tsuen Wan	3	11	1	8
Tuen Mun	5	3	0	7
Yuen Long	8	18	7	12
North	5	4	1	4
Tai Po	6	6	0	1
Sai Kung	10	8	1	6
Shatin	14	7	4	2
Kwai Ching	7	17	3	8
Islands	14	13	4	1*
Total	106	137	44	103

* with a total number of 841 signatures from Cheung Chau residents.

Annex B**TV Transposers under construction**

Location of Transposer	Service Area	Scheduled Completion Date
Fai Lam House, Tsui Lam Estate, Tseung Kwan O	Tseung Kwan O Villages, Sai Kung	December 2001
Four Pearls Building, Tuen Mun	San Hui Village, San Wai Chai Tsuen and Leung Tin Village of Tuen Mun	March 2002
Flourish Food Manufacturing Centre, Yuen Long	Yuen Long Town Centre	March 2002
Fu Ning Garden, Tseung Kwan O	Hang Hau Village, Tseung Kwan O, Sai Kung	March 2002
Block 9, Fu Tai Estate, Fu Tei, Tuen Mun	Fuk Hang Tsuen, Fu Tei, Tuen Mun	January 2002
Yung Yat House, Yat Tung Estate, Tung Chung	Tung Chung Villages	April 2002
Ying Pun	Ying Pun, North	June 2002