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廣播事務管理局
Broadcasting Authority

Our Reference 發文編號 : TELA/BR 1/4 Pt 2
Your Reference 收文編號 : CBI/PL/ITB
Telephone 電話 : 2594 5881
Fax 傳真 : 2598 5509

28 October 2006

The Hon Albert Jinghan Cheng
Chairman
Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road Central
Hong Kong

Dear Albert,

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

**Revisions to the Accuracy Requirement in the Generic Code of Practice
on Television Programme Standards and Radio Code of Practice
on Programme Standards**

Thank you for your letter dated 18 October 2006. I regret I was not able to attend the Panel meeting on 17 October as I was on duty visit overseas. I am fully aware of the letters expressing concern over the proposed revisions to the accuracy requirement in the Broadcasting Authority's Generic Code of Practice on Television Programme Standards and Radio Code of Practice on Programme Standards. I have been kept fully abreast of developments and briefed on the views and comments of Panel Members on this matter.

The Broadcasting Authority places great importance on consultation in its decision-making process. This allows those who may be affected by or concerned about a particular issue to provide feedback to facilitate the Authority to make informed and evidence-based decisions. This is in line with international best practices. However, how consultation can be effectively conducted depends on the issues concerned, and the Authority will review its consultation procedures from time to time to ensure its effectiveness.

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I understand that Panel Members may discuss broadcasting matters at Panel meetings from time to time. The Broadcasting Authority as the industry regulator established under the Broadcasting Ordinance is required by statute to make independent decisions affecting the broadcasting industry which, in most cases, involve confidential and sensitive commercial information of our licensees and their operations. Such matters cannot be discussed in open forums without affecting or damaging the licensees' interests. Panel Members no doubt appreciate the Authority's statutory obligations, but please be rest assured that we will try our best to communicate with Panel Members on broadcasting issues.

With best regards,



(Daniel R Fung)

Chairman

Broadcasting Authority

c.c. Ms Lorna Wong, CTEL