

**Bills Committee on Telecommunications (Amendment) Bill 2009**

**List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion  
at the meeting on 4 November 2009**

1. The Administration was requested to provide the following information:
  - (a) the availability of spectrum for digital sound broadcasting services (including the additional frequency spectrum to be released by digitization and the additional number of channels that can be supported);
  - (b) the sound broadcasting services licensing regimes in overseas jurisdictions, including the licensing criteria for the grant of sound broadcasting licenses and the criteria applicable to community broadcasting for specific social/ethnic/religious groups covering a particular locality or region, if any;
  - (c) the findings in respect of radio listening habits of Hong Kong people in the last three Broadcasting Services Surveys conducted by the Television and Entertaining Licensing Authority in 2002, 2005 and 2007;
  - (d) Government's overall plan and time-table for the development of digital audio broadcasting (DAB) in Hong Kong, including resource allocation to the Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) for the development of DAB, and the result of the technical trial of DAB conducted by RTHK;
  - (e) the existing application processing procedures and assessment criteria for the grant of licences for sound broadcasting services and the appeal mechanism;
  - (f) the composition and membership list of the Broadcasting Authority (BA);
  - (g) the guidance note for those interested in applying for domestic free television programme service licences issued by the BA;
  - (h) the draft guidance note for those interested in applying for sound broadcasting service licences issued by the BA; and
  - (i) the Legislative Council Brief on the application by the Ocean Technology Limited for a sound broadcasting licence to establish and

maintain a community radio known as Citizens' Radio and any other related information.

2. The Administration was also requested to:
  - (a) clarify whether the reception of sound broadcasting services would involve the installation of related facilities in buildings which might require the approval of the Owners Incorporated concerned;
  - (b) consider whether the Chief Executive-in-Council's "discretion" in respect of the grant of a licence for sound broadcasting services should be removed from the Telecommunications (Amendment) Bill 2009; and
  - (c) consider relaxing the criteria on the "benefits to the local broadcasting industry, the audience and the community as a whole" so as to also allow the grant of sound broadcasting licences to specific social/ethnic/religious groups covering a particular locality or region.

Council Business Division 1  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
26 November 2009