

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 8 June 2012)

Proposed timing
for discussion

1. Facilitating a digital economy under the Digital 21 Strategy

The Administration will brief the Panel on the progress of the initiatives that facilitate a digital economy under the Digital 21 Strategy since its last update in July 2011.

9 July 2012

2. Information security

The Administration will brief the Panel on the information security programme of the Government since the last update in June 2011.

9 July 2012

3. Setting up of a Technology and Communications Bureau under the proposed re-organization of the Government Secretariat

At the special meeting of the Panel held on 28 May 2012 to discuss the item "Proposal to set up a Technology and Communications Bureau under the proposed re-organization of the Government Secretariat", members agreed to schedule a further meeting to discuss the related issues with the new Government after 1 July 2012.

To be confirmed

4. Spectrum trading

The former OFTA (replaced by the Office of the Communications Authority since 1 April 2012) appointed a consultant to study the feasibility of introducing radio spectrum trading in Hong Kong for facilitating economic and technically efficient use of this scarce public resource. The Administration is examining the recommendations made by the consultant. If it is considered justifiable to pursue the initiative, the Administration will draw up an implementation framework and consult the public, and brief the Panel on the subject accordingly.

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

5. Competition complaints against Television Broadcasts Limited

The Administration will brief the Panel on the outcome of the former Broadcasting Authority's (BA) investigation into the competition complaints against Television Broadcasts Limited.

To be confirmed

6. Development of the New Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O

At the Panel meeting held on 14 February 2011, the Panel was briefed on the comprehensive package to support the development in the next few years of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) as the public service broadcaster. The Panel agreed that the development of the New Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O should be discussed after completion of the relevant feasibility study.

To be confirmed

7. Review on regulation of person-to-person telemarketing calls

At the Panel meeting on 9 November 2009, the Administration briefed members on the findings of the two opinion surveys commissioned by the former OFTA in respect of person-to-person (P2P) telemarketing calls and the actions to be taken in the light of the information collected from the surveys. Some members doubted whether voluntary self-regulation by the industry by way of the Code of Practice (CoP) would be effective in tackling the problems caused by P2P telemarketing calls and considered it necessary to introduce legislation to regulate such calls.

To be confirmed

After consultation with the industry, the former OFTA issued a benchmark CoP with guidelines requesting telemarketers to disclose identity and calling line identification information when making such calls. Telemarketers are also requested to maintain an in-house unsubscribe list for the public to make unsubscribe request.

According to the Administration, industry associations of four business sectors, namely finance, insurance, telecommunications service and call centre, have pledged support for the voluntary self-regulation scheme. The industry associations of insurance companies, banks, restricted licence banks and deposit-taking

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

companies, three major telecommunications operators, two telemarketing industry associations, and a major telecommunications industry association have implemented their own CoP. The Administration will update the Panel on the progress of the implementation of the voluntary CoP after it has operated for some time.

8. Mobile data charges

In view of the increasing public concern about the rising problem of exorbitant mobile data charges, and the cap on mobile data charges that came into force recently in the European Union to protect consumers from "bill shock", members suggested that a Panel meeting should be held with the Administration to discuss the matter with a view to drawing up a long-term policy and time-table to regulate mobile data charges. At the Panel's request, the Research Division undertook to provide an information note on the preventive measures of mobile bill shock implemented in the European Union. The information note (IN06/10-11) was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)1195/10-11 on 31 January 2011. At the Council meeting on 2 November 2011, Hon Albert CHAN raised a question on complaints on billing of telecommunications services.

To be confirmed

9. Sponsored programme and advertising of a political nature on radio

At the Panel meeting held on 14 June 2010, the Panel was briefed on the current regulatory regime governing advertisement of a political nature and sponsoring of programmes on radio. Subsequent to the former BA's ruling on the sponsorship of a radio programme by a certain political party and a paid radio announcement by a Legislative Council Member, Hon Emily LAU requested that a Panel meeting be held with the Administration, relevant statutory bodies and deputations to discuss the matter.

To be confirmed