

**For information**

**Legislative Council  
Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting**

**Review of the Telecommunications Engineer Grade  
Office of the Communications Authority**

**Purpose**

At the Panel meeting on 4 February 2013, two Members enquired about the progress of the review of the Telecommunications Engineer (TE) grade being conducted by the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA). This paper updates Members of the progress of the review.

**Background**

2. In order to enable OFCA to handle the increasingly diverse and complex economic regulatory issues in the communications sectors, the Administration proposed to create the new Regulatory Affairs Manager (RAM) grade, a multi-disciplinary grade comprising members with background in such areas as law, economics, accounting, business administration and engineering. The proposal was approved by the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council (LegCo) in November 2011. Prior to that, the TE grade is the main civil service grade responsible for regulatory work in OFCA. Specifically, the TE grade provides technical telecommunications engineering support to OFCA and is in charge of technical regulatory work, such as the planning and assignment of radio spectrum, and setting of technical standards.

3. In relation to the creation of the new RAM grade, the Administration undertook to conduct a review to consider whether the functions of the TE grade should be subsumed under the RAM grade. As we have advised the Establishment Subcommittee of the FC on 10 November 2011, we have brought forward the review to take place in 2012, for completion in 2013. The Administration also undertook to the FC to report the outcome of the review to the Panel in due course.

## **Progress Update**

4. OFCA commissioned an external consultant in late 2012 to assist in the review. The consultant is tasked to review the workload of pure engineering and technical regulatory functions of the TE grade having regard to technological and market development, and to conduct a detailed job analysis of posts in the TE grade to assess whether or not the functions of the TE grade should be subsumed under the RAM grade, and to map out the incidental arrangements. The review is proceeding on schedule. The consultant is expected to submit a study report before end May 2013.

5. Upon receipt of the study report, the Administration would review the findings and recommendations in details in mapping out the way forward. Our target is to brief the Panel on the way forward before the end of the current legislative session.

**Commerce and Economic Development Bureau and  
Office of the Communications Authority  
March 2013**