

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

List of issues suggested to be considered

(position as at 16 October 2012)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 Computerization Subhead A007GX (Block Allocation) – New administrative computer systems

The Administration will brief the Panel and seek members' support on the funding requirement for 2013-2014 for the implementation of computerization projects under Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 710 Computerization Subhead A007GX (Block Allocation).

November 2012

2. Proposed creation of a new permanent post of Chief Regulatory Affairs Manager (D1) under the Office of the Communications Authority

The Administration will brief the Panel on the proposal to create one permanent post of Chief Regulatory Affairs Manager to cope with the additional workload arising from the implementation of the Trade Descriptions (Unfair Trade Practices) (Amendment) Bill 2012 ("TDO Amendment Bill") in 2013-2014. The Administration will seek the ESC's and FC's approval for the proposal afterwards.

November 2012

3. Licence Fee Reductions for Unified Carrier Licences (UCL), Public Radiocommunications Service Licences and Services-Based Operator Licences Issued under the Telecommunications Ordinance

The Administration and the Communications Authority issued a consultation paper on the proposed licence fee reductions for UCL, Public Radiocommunications Service Licences and Services-Based Operator Licences, with effect from 1 March 2013, on 29 June 2012. The public consultation ended on 30 July 2012. The Administration will brief the Panel on the proposal.

November 2012

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

4. Proposed creation of a permanent directorate post of Secretary-General of Film Development Council (SG(FDC)) and update on the work of the Create Hong Kong (CreateHK)

The Administration will brief the Panel on the proposal to create a permanent directorate post of Secretary-General of Film Development Council (D2) in CreateHK and the work progress of the office, including the progress of implementation of the Film Development Fund.

December 2012

5. Revision of fees payable in respect of applications for the recognition of certification authorities, the recognition of digital certificates or the renewal of such recognition under the Electronic Transactions Ordinance (Cap. 553)

The Administration will brief the Panel on the proposed revision of the fees specified under Electronic Transactions (Fees) Regulation (Cap. 553A).

December 2012

6. Annual report on Cyberport

The Administration and the Cyberport management will update the Panel on the progress of the Cyberport Project since the last report in April 2012.

April 2013

7. Progress report on the work of Hong Kong Design Centre

The Administration will update the Panel on the progress of the work of the Hong Kong Design Centre and the relevant initiatives taken to promote design since the last report in November 2011.

May 2013

8. Progress report on digital inclusion

The Administration will update the Panel on the latest progress of the digital inclusion, including the progress of implementation of the Internet Learning Support Programme, since the last update in May 2012.

June 2013

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

9. Progress update on the e-Government development

The Administration will update the Panel on the latest progress of e-Government development since the last report in June 2012.

June 2013

10. 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 the last update in July 2012.

July 2013

11. Digital terrestrial television update

The Administration will update the Panel on the latest progress of implementation of the digital terrestrial television services since the last update in March 2012.

To be confirmed

12. Review of Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance

The Administration will brief the Panel on the outcome of the second round of public consultation on the review of Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance.

To be confirmed

13. Progress update on the introduction of Customer Complaint Settlement Scheme

The trial operation of the Customer Complaint Settlement Scheme for the telecommunications industry will be launched towards the end of 2012, for a two-year trial period. The Administration will update the Panel on the latest progress when the Scheme has been operated for some time.

To be confirmed

14. Applications for domestic free television programme service licences

The Administration will brief the Panel on the outcome of the applications for domestic free television programme service licences since the last update in June 2012.

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

15. Spectrum trading

The former Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) (replaced by the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) 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

16. Competition complaints against Television Broadcasts Limited

The Administration will brief the Panel on the outcome of the Communications Authority's investigation into the competition complaints against Television Broadcasts Limited.

To be confirmed

17. 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 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

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

18. 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 companies, four 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.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

19. 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 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 prepared 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 about billing of telecommunications services.

To be confirmed

The Administration has subsequently advised that mobile operators have implemented various measures to help prevent bill shock, including allowing customers to opt-out of individual services, setting a charge ceiling, setting a usage cap for usage-based mobile services, and alerting the customers through short messages when their pre-determined usage threshold is reached, or when their roaming data usage is triggered. OFCA has also been organizing series of consumer education activities so as to increase consumer awareness on mobile data services. The Administration has further advised that the problem of exorbitant mobile data charges is no longer a major issue of concern. Subject to members' agreement, this item will be deleted from the list.

20. 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

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
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