Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

List of outstanding items for discussion (position as at 16 July2014)

> Proposed timing for discussion

1. **Digital terrestrial television update**

The Administration will update the Panel on the latest 2nd quarter 2014 progress of implementation of the DTT services since February 2013.

2. Proposed creation of two supernumerary directorate posts in the Communications and **Technology Branch of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau**

 $3^{rd} / 4^{th}$ quarter The Administration will consult the Panel on the proposed creation of one supernumerary Administrative Officer Staff 2014 Grade B post and one supernumerary Administrative Officer Staff Grade C post to lead a team in reviewing the Telecommunications Ordinance and the Broadcasting Ordinance.

3. Progress update on the introduction of Customer **Complaint Settlement Scheme**

The trial operation of the Customer Complaint Settlement Early 2015 Scheme for the telecommunications industry has been launched on 1 November 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.

4. **Development of E-Learning**

The Administration will brief the Panel on the initiatives and To be confirmed implementation measures to promote the development of E-Learning and the adoption of ICT in education.

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

At the Panel meeting on 9 November 2009, the To be confirmed 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.

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 finance, four business namely insurance. sectors. 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, all 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

6. Review of the Broadcasting Ordinance and the Telecommunications Ordinance

During the deliberation of the Bills Committee on Authority Bill, Communications the Administration advised that a staged approach would be adopted in modernizing the regulatory regime for the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors. The Administration would first establish CA through the structural merger of the former Telecommunications Authority ("TA") and the Broadcasting Authority ("BA") to enable CA to deal with increasing market convergence as soon as possible. Upon establishment, CA would take over the existing functions of the TA and the BA under the Telecommunications Ordinance ("TO"), the Broadcasting Ordinance ("BO") and other relevant ordinances applicable to the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors. The Administration and CA would then carry out a review of the existing regulatory regimes and introduce legislative changes to update and rationalize the TO and the BO.

At the Panel meeting on 16 October 2012, Hon Charles Peter MOK requested that the Administration should brief the Panel on the progress of the matter.

7. Spectrum trading

The former Office of the Telecommunications Authority To be consultant ("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, together with the latest international trend and the market situation in Hong Kong in detail to map out the way forward.

On 24 January 2013, the Administration requested that discussion on the issue, originally scheduled for the meeting on 4 February 2013, be deferred. The Administration will brief the Panel on the next step of the work plan once ready.

To be confirmed

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8. Review of Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance

At the Panel meeting on 14 January 2013, the To be confirmed Administration briefed the Panel on the views collected during the second round of public consultation on the review of Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance. The Panel noted that the Administration would study the views received and work with the concerned parties, including the Judiciary, with a view to mapping out the way forward. Members requested the Administration to brief the Panel on the way forward by July 2013 at the latest.

9. Implementation of the Internet Learning Support Programme

On 3 June 2014, Hon Christopher CHUNG wrote to the Panel Chairman expressing concern on the implementation of the Internet Learning Support Programme ("ILSP") and requested that the issue be included in the list of outstanding items for discussion. The letter was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(4)771/13-14(01) on 4 June 2014 and forwarded to the Administration for response.

Council Business Division 4 <u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u> 16 July 2014