

Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 7 November 2013)

Proposed timing
for discussion

1. Competition complaints against Television Broadcasts Limited

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

2 December 2013

2. Control and management of Asia Television Limited

The Administration will brief the Panel on the outcome of CA's investigation into the role played by Mr WONG Ching in the control and management of Asia Television Limited.

2 December 2013

3. Review of the Digital 21 Strategy

The Administration will consult the Panel on the proposed new Digital 21 Strategy.

9 December 2013

4. Retention of a supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B ("AOSGB") in RTHK

The Administration will consult the Panel on the proposal to retain a supernumerary post of AOSGB for five years in RTHK in order to maintain strong governance at senior management level to ensure effective planning and implementation of its new services and projects. The supernumerary post was approved for creation for three years on 27 May 2011 and will lapse on 27 May 2014.

9 December 2013

5. RTHK - Establishment of 22 digital terrestrial television ("DTT") fill-in stations

The Administration will consult the Panel on the proposal to establish 22 DTT fill-in stations to extend the network coverage of RTHK's DTT services to the remote areas of the territory, enhancing the service coverage from 75% to around 99% of Hong Kong's population.

9 December 2013

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

6. Arrangements for the frequency spectrum in the 1.9 – 2.2 GHz Band upon expiry of the existing frequency assignments for 3G mobile services

At the Panel meeting on 4 February 2013, the Administration briefed members on the arrangements for the frequency spectrum in the 1.9 – 2.2 GHz Band upon expiry of the existing frequency assignments for 3G mobile services. The Panel noted that a hybrid between administratively-assigned and market-based approach (i.e. right of first refusal to the incumbent 3G operators for them to retain part of the spectrum in the 1.9 – 2.2 GHz band, while part of the spectrum would be returned to CA for re-auction) had been proposed for the second consultation with the telecommunications industry and interested parties.

November/
December 2013

At the Panel meeting on 27 March 2013, the Panel met with representatives of relevant stakeholders to gauge their views on the subject. In view of the possible degradation of customer service quality in adopting the proposed approach as pointed out by some deputations and in response to the request of the Panel, the Administration would appoint an independent consultant to conduct a detailed technical assessment on the impact on the quality of service provided by incumbent 3G operators. The Administration would announce the assessment outcome by October 2013 together with the decision on the arrangement for the 3G spectrum upon expiry of the current assignment.

On 6 September 2013, Hon Charles Peter MOK, Hon SIN Chung-kai and Hon Claudia MO jointly issued a letter to the Panel Chairman requesting the Administration to disclose the report of CA's consultancy study as soon as possible and to brief members on the findings of the study after the commencement of the next legislative session.

7. Establishing a unified information and communications technology ("ICT") professional recognition framework in Hong Kong

The Administration will consult the Panel on the proposed arrangement to establish a unified ICT professional recognition framework in Hong Kong.

10 March 2014

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

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

The Administration will consult the Panel on the proposed creation of one supernumerary Administrative Officer Staff 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.

1st quarter 2014

9. Renewal of the domestic free television programme service licences

The Administration will brief the Panel on the progress of processing the applications for renewal of the free TV licences of Asia Television Limited and Television Broadcasts Limited.

1st quarter 2014

10. Digital terrestrial television update

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

1st quarter 2014

11. Annual report on Cyberport

The Administration and the Cyberport management will update the Panel on the progress of the Cyberport Project since March 2013.

14 April 2014

12. 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 June 2013.

12 May 2014

13. Development of E-Learning

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

12 May 2014

14. Progress update on the e-Government development

The Administration will update the Panel on the latest progress of e-Government development since June 2013.

9 June 2014

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

15. Update on the work of the Create Hong Kong

The Administration will update the Panel on the latest work of Create Hong Kong in promoting the development of creative industries since February 2013.

2nd quarter 2014

16. 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 May 2013.

2nd quarter 2014

17. Progress update on digital economy

The Administration will brief the Panel on the progress of the initiatives that facilitate a digital economy since July 2013.

14 July 2014

18. Information security

The Administration will update the Panel on the latest progress of Government's information security programmes since July 2013.

14 July 2014

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

The trial operation of the Customer Complaint Settlement 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.

2nd/3rd quarter
2014

20. 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

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

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, 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.

21. Review of the Broadcasting Ordinance and the Telecommunications Ordinance

During the deliberation of the Bills Committee on Communications Authority Bill, 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.

To be confirmed

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.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

22. 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, together with the latest international trend and the market situation in Hong Kong in detail to map out the way forward.

To be confirmed

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.

23. Review of Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance

At the Panel meeting on 14 January 2013, the 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.

To be confirmed