

RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG
香港電台

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7 October 2013

Hon WONG Yuk-man
The Chairman
Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting
Legislative Council of HKSAR

Dear Mr. Wong,

Re: Drama Series Ombudsman Special (“申訴”) :
“Who Shall Decide on Justice?” (“公義誰定”)

Thank you for referring the letter from _____ to us on 24 September 2013. We have looked into the matter and would like to respond below.

“Ombudsman Special” was a drama series jointly produced by Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) and the Office of The Ombudsman. The subject episode “Who Shall Decide on Justice” was based on a case referred by the Office of The Ombudsman to us, which was then adapted into a drama production. As usual, we exercised our editorial autonomy in the process.

The subject producer and his team followed our standard practice to start with case research and had then met with a number of parties before scripting and filming, under the supervision and guidance of an executive producer. Parties the producer met included officers of the Office of The Ombudsman, the victim, and also the District Council Member involved in this case.

It was learnt that in this particular case, the victim sought assistance from different channels, which included the Social Welfare Department, medical doctors in charge, a District Council Member and finally the Office of The Ombudsman.

After thorough research, the producer considered the scene that the victim visiting the District Council Member a necessary depiction to express his deeply frustrated mind being reverted because of the assistance sought through this channel.

To shoot this scene, the producer decided to find an office of a District Council Member in order to reflect the real situation. Considering that there could be misunderstanding if any other District Council Member was involved, the producer decided to approach the concerned District Council Member and shot the scene at his office

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The victim seeking help from the District Council Member was captured in a wide shot and a tele-photo shot for the sake of story telling. (6:01-6:23)

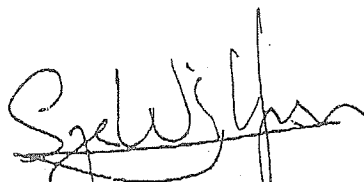
The conversation (at 7:22-7:45) between the victim and the officer of the Office of The Ombudsman were lines simply to reflect the real situation, “議員辦事處能否幫助你？我們開過記者招待會，議員在立法會做了口頭質詢，我在勞福局親手遞信給局長。效果怎樣？可能是局長的影響力，後來社署保障辦事處自動叫我再遞交申請...” and this was necessary for the flow of the story. The name of the District Council Member was not mentioned in the conversation.

Please note that the purpose of this television drama series was to redress grievances and address issues arising from maladministration in the public sector so to promote fairness and bring about improvement in the quality and standard in public administration. We have no intention to promote any person or party. In fact, all episodes in this series shared the same realistic filming technique as to reconstruct the real life experiences of various victims to arouse empathy among viewers.

Reviewing the shot sequence of the scene 6:01-6:23 showing the entrance of the office, which might feel it was to advertise the Legislative Councilor concerned (who was a District Council Member in 2007 and then Legislative Councilor in 2012), we must reiterate that was never our intent. However, to avoid undue prominence, we have decided to re-edit this particular shot, shortening the wide shot to its aesthetic possible for the archived version.

Please rest assured that as a public service broadcaster, RTHK endeavors to uphold impartiality and never be influenced or pressured by any political, commercial or other sectional interests. Taking this opportunity, I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to 's interest in our programme. As always, RTHK welcomes all views and comments.

Yours sincerely,



(Forever) SZE Wing-yuen
Assistant Director of Broadcasting
(Television & Corporate Businesses)
Radio Television Hong Kong

c.c. The Communications Authority
The Office of the Ombudsman