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24 December 2013

Ms YUE Tin-Po,  
Clerk, Panel on  
Information Technology and Broadcasting,  
Legislative Council,  
Legislative Council Complex,  
1 Legislative Council Road,  
Central, Hong Kong.

Dear Ms Yue,

**Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting**

We refer to the Panel's letter dated 10 December 2013. In relation to the hosting arrangement of programmes of Commercial Radio ("CR") in November this year as mentioned in the Hon Claudia Mo's letter to the Panel Chairman dated 18 November 2013, this Bureau's responses are set out below.

The Government and the Communications Authority ("CA") have all long respected broadcasters' editorial independence and freedom of expression and will not interfere in their editorial principles as well as day-to-day operations, including selection of broadcast materials, programming and hosting arrangements. The Government is therefore not in a position to comment on the concerned arrangement by CR.

Under its broadcasting licence, CR shall submit an application for licence renewal to the CA not later than 24 months before the expiry of the period of validity of the licence. CR's current licence will expire on 25 August 2016. If CR wishes to apply for licence renewal, it shall submit an application to the CA on or before 25 August 2014. Pursuant to the relevant provision of the Telecommunications Ordinance, the CA shall, not less than 15 months (i.e. on or before 25 May 2015) before the date for any renewal of a licence or such shorter period as the Chief Executive ("CE") in Council may permit, submit recommendations to the CE in Council concerning the renewal of the licence and the terms and conditions to be imposed. The CA has not yet received CR's licence renewal application. The Government and the CA have also not yet been in touch with CR on matters in relation to the licence renewal.

I should be grateful if you could convey the information above to Members for information.



( M H Chiu )  
for Secretary for

Commerce and Economic Development