

By Fax

Fax No. : 2840 0269

24 December 2013

Ms Yue Tin-po  
Clerk to Panel on  
Information Technology and Broadcasting (“the Panel”)  
Legislative Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Yue,

**TVB’s Ban on Next Media and  
TVB’s Programme “Scoop” (東張西望—電視牌照風雲)**

I refer to your letter dated 10 December 2013, conveying the Panel’s enquiry as to whether the Communications Authority (“CA”) has investigated the complaints against the Television Broadcasts Limited (“TVB”)’s ban on Next Media and TVB’s programme “Scoop” (東張西望 – 電視牌照風雲) broadcast on 5 November 2013.

For the Panel’s information, the CA has received a total of 85 complaints in relation to TVB’s ban on Next Media. Most complainants alleged that TVB’s ban deprived the public of the right to know; obstructed freedom of speech and freedom of press; restricted artists’ freedom of expression; failed to observe media ethics; amounted to anti-competitive conduct; and that the reporting of the ban on TVB’s news and infotainment programmes was not based on fact, was partial and unfair to Next Media, and was a misuse of the spectrum by TVB to promote its own interests.

Regarding TVB’s programme “Scoop” broadcast on 5 November 2013, the CA has received over 27,000 public complaints against the programme. The main allegations were that the programme was partial, misleading and inaccurate; was unfair to Hong Kong

Television Network Limited; contained advertising materials to promote TVB, and was a misuse of the spectrum by TVB to promote its own interests.

As with all complaints received by the CA concerning broadcasters, the above complaints are being processed by the CA in accordance with the Broadcasting (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap 391), the Broadcasting Ordinance (Cap 562), the terms and conditions of the respective television programme service licences, the codes of practice and the established complaint handling procedures. In accordance with such established procedures, all complaints with prima facie evidence of a possible breach of the provisions in the relevant legislations, licence conditions and codes of practices will be referred to the Broadcast Complaints Committee (“BCC”) for deliberation and recommendation to the CA. Having regard to the recommendations of the BCC, the CA will decide on the complaint cases. Members of the public would be advised of the CA’s decisions on substantiated complaints through the CA’s monthly press release.

Yours sincerely,



( Eric CHAN )

for Secretary  
Communications Authority

c.c. Hon Wong Yuk-man  
Chairman, Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting