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By email

9 March 2016

Mr. Daniel SIN
Clerk, Panel on
Information Technology and Broadcasting
Legislative Council
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr. Sin,

**Request to convene a special meeting to discuss
the issue concerning TVB's use of simplified Chinese subtitles**

I refer to your letter of 25 February 2016. After consultation with the Office of the Communications Authority, our responses to the issue mentioned in the letter from Hon Claudia MO are as follows.

Currently, as a requirement under its domestic free television programme service (free TV) licence, Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) shall provide Chinese subtitling for all news bulletins, weather reports, current affairs programmes and emergency announcements as well as all the programmes shown between 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. every day on its integrated Cantonese channel in both analogue and digital formats (i.e. the Jade channel) and three dedicated digital channels (i.e. the iNews, J2 and J5 channels). Moreover, all drama programmes (except for re-run of drama programmes which were first broadcast before 1 December 2003) shown on the Jade channel shall carry Chinese subtitles.

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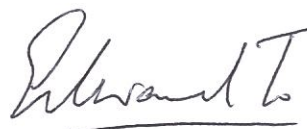
TVB is also required to provide English subtitling for all news bulletins, weather reports, current affairs programmes and emergency announcements as well as all the programmes shown between 8:00 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. every day on its integrated English channel in both analogue and digital formats (i.e. the Pearl channel). Moreover, educational programmes for teenagers (two hours per week) shown on the Pearl channel shall carry English subtitles.

The format of presentation of Chinese and English subtitles is not specified under the free TV licences, and it would be up to the TV stations to decide on the actual arrangements.

Since TVB started to broadcast Putonghua news bulletins in the evening on its J5 channel from 22 February 2016, the Communications Authority (CA) has received more than 13 000 complaints against TVB that only simplified Chinese subtitles are provided for its Putonghua news bulletins. The CA will handle the complaints in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the Broadcasting (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 391) and the established procedures. Complaints which might involve a contravention of legislation, licence conditions or codes of practice will be referred to the Broadcast Complaints Committee under the CA, which will make recommendations to the CA. Based on these recommendations, the CA will make a decision on the complaints and inform the complainants of the investigation results and decisions.

We would be grateful if the Secretariat could pass the above information to members of the Panel for reference.

Yours sincerely,



(Edward TO)

for Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

c.c. Director General of Communications