

商務及經濟發展局  
通訊及創意產業科

香港添馬添美道二號  
政府總部西翼二十一樓



COMMUNICATIONS AND  
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES BRANCH  
COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

21/F, West Wing  
Central Government Offices  
2 Tim Mei Avenue  
Tamar, Hong Kong

本函檔號 OUR REF :  
來函檔號 YOUR REF :  
電 話 TEL. NO. : 2810 2708  
傳 真 FAXLINE : 2511 1458  
電子郵件 E-mail Address : keithgiang@cedb.gov.hk

By Email

17 June 2020

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

Dear Mr Sin,

**Legislative Council  
Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting**

**Matters of Concern regarding Radio Television Hong Kong  
raised by the Members at the Meeting of 8 June 2020**

I refer to the email from the Secretariat of the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting dated 10 June 2020. With regard to the concerns raised by the Members at the meeting of 8 June 2020 concerning office accommodation of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) and the establishment of a dedicated team by this Bureau, our reply is as follows –

**Office Accommodation and Production Facilities of RTHK**

The Educational Television Centre (ETC) has all along been owned by the Education Bureau (EDB) for the purpose of producing school

/Cont'd....

educational television (ETV) programmes. Since the commissioning of ETC, EDB staff have all along been working in ETC, and RTHK is not the sole user department. During and before the financial year 2019-2020, RTHK was responsible for producing ETV programmes for EDB. To facilitate programme production, EDB thus shared the use of its ETC with RTHK.

Following the change in mode of production of ETV programmes in light of the recommendations made in the Director of Audit's Report No. 71 published in October 2018, RTHK is no longer required to produce 62 ETV programmes for EDB every year. The posts in RTHK responsible for production of ETV programmes have also lapsed in this financial year. It can be seen that the original purpose and service need for RTHK staff to use ETC no longer exists. There is also a need for office accommodation within EDB arising from the continuous development of its own services in recent years. Hence, EDB informed RTHK last month, requesting RTHK to move out from ETC under EDB by September this year. EDB will continue to discuss with RTHK on the relocation arrangement and timetable in order to meet the operational needs of both parties.

RTHK expects that the relocation of offices and production facilities has no impact on programme production. RTHK has sufficient resources and equipment for providing public service broadcasting to fulfil the public purposes and mission under the Charter of RTHK (Charter).

### **The Establishment of Dedicated Team to Review the Governance and Management of RTHK**

As the management and programme contents of RTHK has aroused wide public concern recently, this Bureau considers it necessary to address the concern and follow up in a proactive and positive manner. Hence, this Bureau announced on 28 May 2020 the establishment of a dedicated team to review the governance and management of RTHK and provide recommendations on its overall management systems, processes and practices, with a view to ensuring full compliance with the Charter, the relevant codes of practice issued by the Communications Authority (CA), and all applicable Government rules and regulations. The review team will be led by a senior directorate civil servant and comprise officers from various grades of the Government.

/Cont'd....

The scope of the review is as follows –

- (1) to review RTHK's administration, including financial control, human resources management and procurement matters to ensure that its manpower and resource deployment complies with all applicable Government rules and regulations, and that such deployment is made for the effective delivery of services under programme areas as set out in paragraphs 17 to 20 of the Charter, and where necessary, to identify scope for improvement;
- (2) to review RTHK's progress of implementing the recommendations of the Report No. 71 of the Director of Audit, including the need for a transparent and objective system for setting performance targets and benchmarks for measuring results; and
- (3) to review RTHK's overall management systems, processes and practices, making reference to best practices of other public service broadcasters, to ensure full compliance with the Charter and the codes of practice on programming standards issued by the CA.

In the course of the review, the dedicated team will take into account the operational needs of RTHK and views of different stakeholders. This Bureau has clearly indicated that members of the review team will not take part in any programme production or editorial decisions of RTHK. RTHK has indicated that it would provide full support to the exercise.

Over the past few months, this Bureau has been discussing with the LegCo on issues related to RTHK on multiple occasions, with responses to and discussions on matters raised by the Members, including

- (a) the special meeting of the Finance Committee to examine the Estimates of Expenditure 2020-2021 on 7 April 2020, with most of the discussion relating to RTHK's resources and businesses;
- (b) the meeting of the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting on 11 May 2020, discussing matters on the governance and management of RTHK;
- (c) the written question No. 12 raised by the Hon Elizabeth QUAT at the LegCo meeting on 27 May 2020, responding to matters on RTHK's operation;
- (d) the written question No. 16 raised by the Hon Alvin YEUNG at the LegCo meeting on 27 May 2020, responding to matters on RTHK's office accommodation and production facilities;

/Cont'd....

- (e) the oral question No. 5 raised by the Hon Alvin YEUNG at the LegCo meeting on 3 June 2020, responding to matters on RTHK's office accommodation;
- (f) the written question No. 16 raised by the Hon Charles MOK at the LegCo meeting on 17 June 2020, responding to matters on the establishment of a dedicated team to review the governance and management of RTHK;
- (g) RTHK's reply to the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting dated 27 May 2020, responding to the Hon Alvin YEUNG's letter on RTHK's office accommodation; and
- (h) this Bureau's reply to the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting dated 5 June 2020, responding to the Hon Alvin YEUNG's letter on the establishment of a dedicated team to review the governance and management of RTHK.

The relocation of offices and production facilities by RTHK is the routine administrative and operational arrangement of the department, which does not involve government policy, and that the dedicated team has not started its work yet. Hence, this Bureau considers that the matters have already been fully addressed on multiple occasions at the LegCo Full Council and its Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting, and there is no urgency for convening a special meeting to discuss the aforementioned matters repeatedly. Should the Members have any further questions, this Bureau will strive to reply as usual.

Yours sincerely,



(Keith Giang)

for Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development