

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 : CCIB/A 240-5/1

來函檔號 YOUR REF :

電話 TEL. NO. : 3655 5562

傳真 FAXLINE : 2511 1458

電子郵件 E-mail Address :

By email

26 March 2021

Mr Daniel SIN
Clerk, Legislative Council 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
Meeting on 15 March 2021
Agenda Item V “The governance and management of
Radio Television Hong Kong”**

The Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting passed the following motion at its meeting on 15 March 2021 –

“That, as the Governance and Management of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) Review Report released by the Government has identified quite a number of serious inadequacies in the operation of RTHK, and RTHK programmes have been repeatedly ruled to have breached the Generic Code of Practice on Television Programme Standards issued by the Communications Authority, this Panel requests the Government to follow up seriously on the above matters by steering the implementation of RTHK’s reform in strict compliance with the recommendations made in the report to ensure that RTHK, as both a public service broadcaster and a

government department under the Charter of RTHK (the Charter), fully achieves its public purposes and mission, and complies with all applicable government rules and regulations, and by instructing the Director of Broadcasting to seriously perform his role as the Editor-in-chief and handle complaints against RTHK programmes to ensure that programmes produced and broadcast by RTHK must fully abide by the Charter and the Producers' Guidelines with a view to providing accurate, impartial and objective news, public affairs and other regular programmes."

Please note the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB)'s response to this motion -

The roles of RTHK are clearly defined in the Charter. RTHK is both a government department and the only public service broadcaster in Hong Kong. The Charter specifies RTHK's relationship with CEDB and the RTHK Board of Advisors (BoA), as well as the role of the Communications Authority (CA) in regulating RTHK's programme contents. The three parties will discharge their respective functions and responsibilities.

CEDB has been overseeing whether RTHK, as a government department, complies with all applicable government rules and regulations, including those on financial control, human resources management and procurement matters. The BoA advises the Director of Broadcasting (D of B) on all matters pertaining to editorial principles, programming standards and quality of RTHK programming, and receive reports on complaints against such matters. In addition, RTHK must ensure that all of its programmes comply with the relevant codes of practices issued by the CA for regulating the standards of programmes broadcast by broadcasting licensees. The CA adopts consistent standards and procedures in handling complaints about programmes of commercial as well as public service broadcasters in accordance with the established mechanism.

Given that the management and contents of individual RTHK programmes have been a cause of public concern in recent years, CEDB established a dedicated team in the middle of last year to review the governance and management of RTHK. CEDB released the Governance and Management of Radio Television Hong Kong Review Report (the Review Report) on 19 February this year. CEDB has requested RTHK to study in detail and implement the recommendations of the Review Report by drawing up priority improvement measures, an action plan and a timetable to fully implement the recommendations, and to seek advice from the BoA and other stakeholders in a timely manner.

RTHK has already commenced the implementation work, which includes enhancing editorial management, devising a clearer editorial process and improving the complaint handling mechanism. On the recommendation of enhancing editorial governance, RTHK has introduced a new editorial management mechanism under which D of B and RTHK's senior management would hold editorial meetings to ensure the programmes comply with the requirements stipulated in the Charter and the Producers' Guidelines. Other recommendations will be implemented progressively.

Following the attendance of CEDB and D of B at the Panel meeting on 15 March to discuss the Review Report, we are pleased to further discuss the follow-up work on the Review Report at the special meeting on 25 May.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Freda CHEUNG)

for Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

c.c. Director of Broadcasting (Attn.: Ms Iris CHANG)