

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. : 2810 2708  
傳 真 FAXLINE : 2511 1458  
電子郵件 E-mail Address : keithgiang@cedb.gov.hk

By email

26 January 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,

**Matters in relation to Radio Television Hong Kong Programme  
“Hong Kong Connection”**

I refer to the email from the Secretariat dated 11 January 2021 on the captioned. Our reply is as follows –

This Bureau has been stressing that Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), as a public service broadcaster, must fully abide by the Charter of RTHK (Charter). The Charter specifies that while RTHK is editorially independent, it should adhere to the following editorial principles –

- (a) be accurate and authoritative in the information that it disseminates;
- (b) be impartial in the views it reflects, and even-handed with all those who seek to express their views via the public service broadcasting platform;
- (c) be immune from commercial, political and/or other influences; and
- (d) uphold the highest professional standards of journalism.

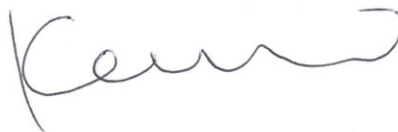
/Cont'd...

The Director of Broadcasting (the Director) as the Editor-in-chief is responsible for ensuring that a system of editorial control in accordance with RTHK's Producers' Guidelines is in place to provide accurate, impartial and objective news, public affairs and general programming that inform, educate and entertain the public. As the Editor-in-chief, the Director is responsible for making the final editorial decisions in RTHK and is accountable for editorial decisions taken by RTHK programme producers.

Similar to other broadcasters, RTHK should also ensure that all its television programmes comply with the relevant code of practices issued by the Communications Authority (CA) to regulate the standards of programmes broadcast by broadcasting licensees. In accordance with the established mechanism, the CA, as a statutory body, adopts consistent standards and procedures in handling complaints about programmes of commercial and public service broadcasters if complaints from members of the public about programmes of broadcasters (including RTHK) are received.

To sum up, in accordance with the Charter and the prevailing mechanism, an independent and fair mechanism is in place to handle complaints about programmes of broadcasters. We consider that all complaints in relation to the aforementioned matter should be handled by this mechanism which has been working effectively. Upon receipt of complaints about RTHK's television programme "Hong Kong Connection" broadcast on 14 December 2020, if any, the CA will also handle them in a fair and impartial manner in accordance with the established mechanism.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith GIANG', written in a cursive style.

(Keith GIANG)

for Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

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