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10 June 2006

Ms Miranda HON
Clerk to Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms HON,

**The Director of Audit's Report on the
results of value for money audits (Report No. 46)**

Chapter 7 – RTHK: financial control and resource management

Thank you for your letter of 6 June 2006.

RTHK wrote to this Bureau earlier seeking covering approval for acceptance of the sponsorship for the two visits to Taiwan in 2004. We took the matter on board since the answer to the question “whether approval would have been granted in 2004 if RTHK had consulted CSB before accepting the sponsorship” could have a bearing on what action should be taken in respect of any RTHK staff who might be held accountable for failing to follow the proper procedures in the first place.

The intimation that RTHK had obtained from SCS in May 2006 the covering approval sought is factually incorrect. Since the visits in question took place about two years ago, it has taken us a while to ascertain the circumstances and relevant data prevailing at the material time. It is only recently that we are in the position to take a view on the matter.

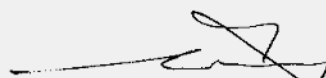
We have just informed RTHK of our view that approval would have been granted if RTHK had consulted this Bureau before accepting the sponsorship in 2004.

The Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology had earlier requested the Director of Broadcasting to submit a report by July 2006 after due investigation on –

- (a) whether disciplinary proceedings should be instituted against the staff concerned in respect of cases covered in the Director of Audit's Report No. 46; and
- (b) whether any managerial staff should take management responsibility and be held accountable.

Depending on the investigation findings and the recommendations of the Director of Broadcasting in his report, we stand ready to provide assistance to RTHK in taking appropriate follow-up actions, including the conduct of disciplinary proceedings, if necessary.

Yours sincerely,



(Christopher K B Wong)
for Secretary for the Civil Service

c.c. Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology
Permanent Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology
(Communications and Technology)
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
Director of Broadcasting
Director of Audit