



Director of Broadcasting
Hong Kong

4 June 2010

By fax and by mail

Dr. Hon. Samson Tam Wai-ho, JP
Chairman,
LegCo Panel on Information, Technology and Broadcasting,
Legislative Council Building,
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong

Dear Dr. Tam,

At the LegCo ITB Panel meeting held on 31 May, some Panel Members have raised some questions about the "Hong Kong Letter" (香港家書) and "Letter to Hong Kong" (English) programmes broadcast on 29 and 30 May respectively. I am writing to provide supplementary information to the Panel in this regard.

"Hong Kong Letter" and "Letter to Hong Kong" are radio programmes for people of different backgrounds to speak on issues of their concern, so that the community will hear from them direct their voices. Guests who have appeared on these two programmes include Government officials, Executive and Legislative Council Members, heads of different public and community organisations, academics, etc. Sometimes these guests volunteer themselves and sometimes they are invited. In deciding on the exact arrangements for each episode, we exercise our journalistic judgment, having regard to the newsworthiness and topical nature of the subject matter. In recent months, the topics covered by these two programmes include the political reform package, by-elections, minimum wages and mental health, etc.; and the guests who appeared during this period represent a wide spectrum from the community, often holding varied views on these topics.

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For the Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs), it has been a long-established practice that each radio channel of RTHK broadcasts two APIs per hour, and it is for the Information Services Department (ISD) to provide the APIs for broadcast. We have been adhering to such arrangements, including the past few weeks.

Yours sincerely,

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

(Franklin Wong)
Director of Broadcasting

c.c. Permanent Secretary (Communications and Technology)
Director of Information Services
Clerk to LegCo Panel on Information, Technology and Broadcasting