

**Public Hearing on the Renewal of the
Analogue Sound Broadcasting Licences of
Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Company
Limited (“CRHK”) and
Metro Broadcast Corporation Limited (“Metro”)**

Venue: Leighton Hill Community Hall

Date: 9 October 2014

Summary of Views

Programme Diversity

1. Metro focused on providing financial programmes. It should broadcast more lifestyle programmes, such as programmes on pets and books.
2. Metro Finance broadcast too many programmes on the stock market. It would lose audience who were not interested in those subjects.

Accuracy, Impartiality and Fairness

3. Callers with opposing views to phone-in programmes of CRHK and Metro were often not put through. Phone-in callers should be selected randomly without being screened by the programme hosts.
4. It was inappropriate for CRHK to encourage young persons to participate in the Occupy Central Movement and to advocate illegal behaviour such as using “the female artistes whom I most wanted to indecently assault” as the subject in its programme.
5. CRHK should respect freedom of expression by accommodating different views.

6. CRHK should not engage programme hosts whose style was similar to that of Ms Li Wei Ling (李慧玲) and should retrain its reporters.
7. CRHK had always been impartial. However, CRHK should provide explanations to the public about the dismissal of Ms Li Wei Ling.
8. CRHK should respect the standpoint and editorial independence of the programme hosts and remain neutral and impartial.

Programme Standards

9. The broadcast of the online vote on “the female artistes whom I most wanted to indecently assault” in CRHK’s programme “So Fab” (架勢堂) in 2006 was of bad taste and sent an incorrect message to young persons.

Programme Quality

10. CRHK’s programmes were commended for responding fast to the Occupy Central Movement. It called on the Government to have a dialogue with the public, and encouraged and provided latest news to the protesters.
11. CRHK should provide better training for their programme hosts to reduce the talent gap.
12. There were views showing dissatisfaction with the performance of a horse racing commentator in CRHK.
13. It was improper for CRHK’s programme host Mr Poon Siu To (潘小濤) to compare the “June 4th Incident” with the “Nanjing Massacre”, and to compare the personnel changes of the Mainland Government to the power struggle of the emperor and the prime minister in the past.

14. It was commendable for CRHK to have programmes reaching out to the community. Its phone-in programmes should not be reduced, otherwise the channels available for public to air their views would be reduced.
15. There was room for improvement in CRHK's programme "On a Clear Day" (在晴朗的一天出發). Its radio drama "18/F Block C" (十八樓C座), and its programmes "Our Way Out" (人民大道中) were partial.
16. CRHK should resume the arrangement of calling out the votes (唱票) at its music awards presentations.

Investment and Financial Capability of the Licensees

17. Metro should improve the quality of its programmes in order to attract more listeners given its lower amount of investments than CRHK.

Overall Performance of the Licensees

18. Metro provided programmes for the ethnic minorities and new immigrants and its licence should be renewed.
19. Some speakers disagreed with the renewal of the licence of CRHK. Reasons included:
 - It had a predetermined stance in favour of the pan-democratic camp. It should tolerate different views in the society.
 - Its programme hosts, especially those of morning programmes, were partial and the invited guests had biased stance.
 - Its programme hosts were in support of the Occupy Central Movement and failed to show care to the community.

- Its online vote on “the female artistes whom I most wanted to indecently assault” in an episode of “So Fab” (架勢堂) broadcast in 2006 insulted females and was offensive to listeners.
 - It produced fewer programmes on the livelihood of citizens when compared to the past.
20. There were views disagreeing with the non-renewal of CRHK’s licence on the grounds that it supported the Occupy Central Movement, although CRHK should be requested to remain impartial and improve the quality of its programmes.

Other Comments and Suggestions

21. There were suggestions that the mid-term review should be conducted at shorter intervals, or the renewal period should be shortened.
22. Airwaves should be opened up for the community to participate in radio programmes. In addition, small and medium sized enterprises should be allowed to use television or radio for promotion at low cost.
23. The provision of sign language interpretation services in the public hearings was commendable as it enabled the hearing impaired to know about public affairs.