

The Communications Authority's Main Recommendations

Accepted by the Chief Executive in Council

Free TV Licences

1. Accept the investment plans of the three free TV licensees for the remaining six years of the licences;
2. Accept the new commitments of the licensees to increase their respective amounts of local productions and/or independent local productions;
3. Positive programmes:
 - Consolidate the existing seven categories of positive programmes into five categories, viz., news, current affairs, children, young persons and “others”;
 - On top of the existing required broadcast hours of current affairs programmes under the category “current affairs”, licensees shall also broadcast no less than 30 minutes of programmes on national education, national identity and National Security Law (NSL) per week;
 - Licensees shall double the weekly broadcast hours of programmes for “young persons” which will remain a separate category of positive programmes;
 - Allow a weekly, instead of a daily quota for children’s programmes, and reduce the total broadcast hours of children’s programmes by 50% to 14 hours per week for each licensee;
 - The total number of hours of positive programmes would remain the same, and all licensees be given the flexibility to broadcast positive programmes (other than news programmes) through any of their programme channels;
 - Lift the “wholly of Hong Kong origin” requirement in respect of the positive programmes; and
 - Replace the detailed positive programme requirements (PPR) prescriptions in the licences with an enabling provision in the licences to empower the Communications Authority (CA) to make directions on PPR.
4. Apply the sign language requirement to all licensees through including an enabling provision in the licences;
5. Allow licensees an overall daily quota of not more than 45% of the broadcasting time to broadcast Non-designated Language (NDL) programmes on the integrated English channels, and relax the restrictions in relation to NDL advertisements;
6. Align the two time periods requiring the provision of subtitles for all programmes on the integrated Chinese and English channels to 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.; and

7. Remove the requirement for the licensees to substantiate their fixed network coverage by means of an auditor's certificate and publication of such information.

Sound Broadcasting Licences

1. Accept the investment plans of the two sound broadcasting licensees for the remaining six years of the licences;
2. Allow licensees to deviate from the investment plans if the total cumulative investment does not fall short of more than 10% of the committed level. The licensees will need to seek the CA's approval if the shortfall exceeds 10% of the committed amount;
3. On top of the existing 90 minutes required broadcast time of current affairs programmes, licensees shall also, in any one or more of its channels, broadcast no less than 30 minutes of programmes on national education, national identity and NSL per week under the category "current affairs"; and
4. Lower the total required broadcast hours in English on the English radio channels from not less than 80% to 55%.