

Domestic Free Television Programme Service Licence

Broadcasting Ordinance (Cap.562)

Television Broadcasts Limited

Amended Licence

14 February 2023

**Department of Justice
The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

INDEX

<u>CONDITION</u>	<u>HEADING</u>
1	Interpretation
2	Terms of Licence
3	Period of validity of Licence
4	Power to amend
5	Saving of rights granted
6	Publication of Licence
7	Notification of place of business
8	Prohibition against transfer of Licence
9	Directions etc. by the relevant Authority
10	Licensee to comply with statements
11	Waiver
12	Liability of Licensee for contraventions
13	Indemnity
14	Licence fee
15	Investment
16	Submission of reports
17	The provision of a domestic free television programme service
18	Comments and complaints
19	Television programmes, publicity material and announcements in the public interest
20	Intellectual property rights
21	Books and accounts to be in English or Chinese
22	Licensee to formulate general guidelines for employees and agents
23	Discipline and training
24	Codes of Practice
25	Interference with other services
26	Information to be provided
27	Provision of testing facilities and Service for regulatory purposes
28	Standby equipment and spare parts
29	Use of frequency channels in in-building coaxial cable distribution systems
30	Transmission of Service
31	Management of Licensee
32	Other requirements

FIRST SCHEDULE

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 11(1) of the Broadcasting Ordinance (Cap.562) and all the powers enabling him in that behalf, the Chief Executive in Council hereby renews the domestic free television programme service licence (“Licence”) granted on 1 December 1988 to Television Broadcasts Limited (“Licensee”, which expression shall include its lawful successors and assigns), a company formed and registered under the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622), whose registered office is situated at TVB City, No.77, Chun Choi Street, Tseung Kwan O Industrial Estate, Kowloon, Hong Kong, and as subsequently amended and renewed, on the following conditions.

Interpretation

- 1.1 Save where the contrary intention appears expressly or by necessary implication in this Licence, words and expressions used in this Licence shall bear the same meaning, if any, as in the Broadcasting Ordinance and in the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap.1), and in the event of any conflict or inconsistency between their meanings, the meaning in the Broadcasting Ordinance shall prevail over that in the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance.
- 1.2 The headings and index used in this Licence shall not in any way vary, limit or extend the interpretation of this Licence.
- 1.3 This Licence shall receive such fair, large and liberal construction and interpretation as will best ensure the attainment of its objects according to its true intent, meaning and spirit.
- 1.4 The Schedule(s) hereto, shall form part of this Licence.
- 1.5.1 Save where the contrary intention appears expressly or by necessary implication in this Licence, the following words and expressions mean:
- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| “auditor” | a professional accountant registered and holding a practising certificate under the Professional Accountants Ordinance (Cap.50) or any other Ordinance governing the registration and issuance of practising certificates of professional accountants, who is neither an employee of the Licensee or its associate nor a person who is required to devote the whole or substantially the whole of his practice to the affairs of the Licensee or its associate. |
| “Code of Practice” | a code of practice which bears the same meaning given in section 2(1) of the Broadcasting Ordinance. |

“day”	a period of 24 hours beginning at midnight.
“designated integrated channels”	integrated Chinese channel and integrated English channel.
“digital form”	an arrangement of signals transmitted by telecommunications and represented by digits or similar discrete form as may be authorised or approved by the Communications Authority.
“integrated Chinese channel”	integrated television programme service channel in the Cantonese dialect transmitted in analogue form and digital form (excluding any thematic digital channels), unless otherwise required under Condition 2.1(b).
“integrated English channel”	integrated television programme service channel in the English language transmitted in analogue form and digital form (excluding any thematic digital channels), unless otherwise required under Condition 2.1(b).
“Investment Plan”	an investment plan as approved by the Communications Authority regarding the Licensee’s commitment of capital expenditure and non-capital expenditure in relation to programming, to be spent on the Service for the period from 1 January 2022 to 30 November 2027, which is contained in the letter dated 12 April 2021 from the Licensee to the Communications Authority, and as may be subsequently updated, revised or modified pursuant to the directions or approvals of the Communications Authority from time to time.
“Licensee’s Proposal”	all statements and representations (including statements of intention) made to the Communications Authority and the Government by or on behalf of the Licensee in relation to this Licence, including but not limited to its application for renewal dated 19 November 2013, the email dated 17 December 2013, the letters dated 27 June 2014, 5 August 2014, 27 October 2014, 6 February 2015, 9 February 2015, 22 April 2015, 12 April 2021, 14 July 2021 and 2 June 2022, the emails dated 9 February 2015, 16 March 2015, 17 March 2015, 24 April 2015, 19 May 2015 and 20 May 2015 and the Investment Plan.

“period of validity”	1 December 2015 to 30 November 2027 (both dates inclusive), being the period specified by the Chief Executive in Council in a notice in the Gazette issued pursuant to section 4 of Schedule 4 to the Broadcasting Ordinance or such period as may be renewed or extended pursuant to section 11 of the Broadcasting Ordinance.
“relevant Authority”	<p>(a) the Communications Authority in connection with either a condition of this Licence in respect of which the Communications Authority is the regulator or similarly empowered under any law, Ordinance, determination, consent, notice, direction, authorisation or approval; or</p> <p>(b) the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development in connection with either a condition of this Licence in respect of which that Secretary is the regulator or similarly empowered under any law, Ordinance, determination, consent, notice, direction, authorisation or approval.</p>
“Service”	the domestic free television programme service, whether transmitted in analogue form or digital form, which the Licensee is authorised and required to provide during the period of validity in accordance with this Licence and any law or Ordinance.
“thematic digital channels”	thematic television programme service channels transmitted in digital form only (excluding any designated integrated channels) as referred to in Condition 17.4.1(c) of this Licence, unless otherwise approved by the Communications Authority under Condition 17.4.2.
“week”	a continuous period of 7 days beginning on a Monday.

1.5.2

The word “person” bears the same meaning as in section 3 of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance and includes “Government”.

- 1.5.3 The expressions “telecommunications”, “telecommunications installation”, “telecommunications line” and “telecommunications service” bear the same meaning as in the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap.106).
- 1.6 In this Licence, save where the contrary intention appears expressly or by necessary implication, words and expressions:
- (a) which import one gender include the two other genders;
 - (b) which import the singular include the plural and vice versa; and
 - (c) extend to their grammatical variations and cognate expressions where those words and expressions are defined herein or by reference to any other definition.
- 1.7 If at any time any condition of this Licence is or becomes illegal, invalid or unenforceable in any respect, the legality, validity or enforceability of the remaining conditions shall not in any way be affected or impaired.
- 1.8 In this Licence, a reference to an Ordinance, whether the word is used by itself or as part of any title to an Ordinance, shall mean the Ordinance for the time being in force as well as any modification or substitution thereof, in whole or in part, and all subsidiary legislation, regulations, directions, codes of practice and instruments made thereunder and for the time being in force.
- 1.9 In forming an opinion or making a determination, direction or decision under this Licence, the relevant Authority shall:
- (a) only do so on reasonable grounds and having regard to relevant considerations; and
 - (b) provide reasons for it in writing.

Terms of Licence

- 2.1
- (a) This Licence authorises and requires the Licensee to provide a Service in accordance with this Licence.
 - (b) The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development may by notice served on the Licensee require the Licensee to provide the Service in digital form in the entirety from a date as specified in the notice, the date being not less than 18 months of the date of the service of the notice.
- 2.2 This Licence is renewed subject to:

- (a) the provisions from time to time in force of the Broadcasting Ordinance, the Telecommunications Ordinance, the Communications Authority Ordinance (Cap.616), the Broadcasting (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap.391) and, including without limitation, any other Ordinance, and any Ordinance enacted in place or substitution in whole or in part thereof and all subsidiary legislation, regulations, technical standards, directions and codes of practice made thereunder;
- (b) the terms and conditions set out in this Licence, and as any of them may be amended from time to time; and
- (c) the performance and observance of the several terms and conditions contained in the licence from time to time in force before the period of validity (“the Previous Licence”) and on the Licensee’s part to be performed and observed, and of the provisions from time to time in force of the Broadcasting Ordinance, the Telecommunications Ordinance, the Communications Authority Ordinance, the Broadcasting (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, and any Ordinance enacted in place or substitution in whole or in part thereof and all subsidiary legislation, regulations, technical standards, directions and codes of practice made thereunder during the term of the Previous Licence.

Period of validity of Licence

- 3.1 Subject to the terms and conditions of this Licence and any law or Ordinance, this Licence shall be valid for the period of validity.
- 3.2 Pursuant to section 4(2)(b) of Schedule 4 to the Broadcasting Ordinance, this Licence shall be subject to review by the Chief Executive in Council during the period from 1 December 2021 to the date of expiry of the period of validity.

Power to amend

- 4.1 The Chief Executive in Council may, if he considers it is in the public interest to do so, vary this Licence in accordance with the Broadcasting Ordinance.

- 4.2 Without prejudice to the aforesaid, the Chief Executive in Council may vary this Licence with the prior consent in writing of the Licensee at any time and from time to time during the period of validity.

Saving of rights granted

5. This Licence shall not in any way whatsoever abrogate or interfere with any rights, whether exclusive or otherwise, granted under any law or Ordinance to any person other than the Licensee.

Publication of Licence

- 6.1 Subject to Condition 6.3, the Licensee shall make available for inspection by members of the general public, free of charge, a certified true copy of this Licence at:

- (a) its registered office and principal place of business; and
- (b) the principal office of the Office of the Communications Authority.

- 6.2 The Government or the Communications Authority may in its discretion make this Licence publicly available in any manner it thinks fit, in whole or in part.

- 6.3 For the purposes of Condition 6.1 and without prejudice to Condition 6.2, the Licensee's Proposal may be excluded in the Licensee's discretion.

Notification of place of business

7. The Licensee shall promptly notify the Communications Authority of any change in the address of its registered office or principal place of business, as the case may be.

**Prohibition
against transfer
of Licence**

8. This Licence or any interest in this Licence shall not in any way be transferred in whole or in part.

**Directions etc.
by the relevant
Authority**

- 9.1 Where any determination, consent, notice, direction, authorisation or approval of or from the relevant Authority is required for the doing of any matter or thing by or on behalf of the Licensee, or a notice or notification is required to be given by or on behalf of the Licensee to the relevant Authority, that determination, consent, notice, direction, authorisation, approval or notification is valid only if given in writing and signed by a person with authority to do so and, subject to Condition 9.2, given before the doing of the said matter or thing in question. If a digital signature is used, it shall be supported by a recognised certificate under the Electronic Transactions Ordinance (Cap.553). For the purpose of this Condition, “digital signature” and “recognized certificate” shall bear the same meaning as in the Electronic Transactions Ordinance.
- 9.2 The relevant Authority may generally or specifically in relation to a particular matter or thing referred to in Condition 9.1 by notice in writing to the Licensee waive the requirement for its or his, as the case may be, determination, consent, notice, direction, authorisation or approval to be given before the doing of the matter or thing in question, provided that no such waiver shall estop the relevant Authority from withdrawing the waiver, with prospective effect, in whole or in part, or from requiring that the determination, consent, notice, direction, authorisation or approval, as the case may be, be required timeously in relation to other matters or things.
- 9.3 Without any limitation whatsoever on the rights and powers conferred by any law or Ordinance, where a relevant Authority gives any determination, consent, notice, direction, authorisation or approval to the Licensee, the same may be:
- (a) withdrawn, modified or replaced from time to time by the relevant Authority, in the same circumstances, and with the same effect, as if the withdrawal, modification or replacement were the giving of a determination, consent, notice, direction, authorisation or approval and the Licensee shall comply therewith;

- (b) given once or from time to time; and
- (c) made subject to such conditions as the relevant Authority may impose.

9.4 All references in this Licence to the doing of any matter or thing by a relevant Authority include any delegates thereof, or other agents, authorised in that regard by or under any law or Ordinance.

9.5 Unless otherwise provided by any law or Ordinance, any determination, consent, notice, direction, authorisation or approval moving from the relevant Authority to the Licensee shall be deemed validly served or given if:

- (a) it complies with the manner prescribed in section 40 of the Broadcasting Ordinance;
- (b) it is dispatched by facsimile transmission to the designated number of the Licensee; or
- (c) it is delivered by hand to the registered office or principal place of business of the Licensee.

**Licensee to
comply with
statements**

10.1 Subject to Condition 10.2, the Licensee shall comply at all material times with the Licensee's Proposal, including but not limited to statements and representations regarding the legal and beneficial interest in the voting control and shares in the Licensee. In the event that any part of the Licensee's Proposal is inconsistent with the conditions of this Licence, any law or Ordinance, the conditions of this Licence, the law and Ordinance shall prevail and the Licensee's Proposal shall be construed accordingly.

10.2 The Communications Authority may generally or specifically in relation to a particular statement or representation referred to in Condition 10.1 by notice to the Licensee waive the requirement for the Licensee to comply with the said statement or representation and the proviso referred to in Condition 9.2 shall apply thereto *mutatis mutandis*.

10.3 The Licensee represents and warrants that the Licensee has the right to make use of the information and technology described as available to it in the Licensee's Proposal.

10.4

Without prejudice to any statutory and other regulatory requirements regarding the legal and beneficial interest in the voting control and shares in the Licensee and without affecting the generality of Condition 10.1, the Licensee shall inform the Communications Authority about any change and series of changes:

- (a) involving 10% or more of the voting shares in the Licensee; and
- (b) involving 1% or more of the voting shares in the Licensee of any person who holds 10% or more of the voting shares in the Licensee

within 14 days after:

- (i) the change or series of changes, as the case may be, take(s) place; or;
- (ii) the Licensee becomes aware of the change or series of changes,

whichever is earlier.

Waiver

11.1

Subject to any law or Ordinance and Condition 11.2, the Communications Authority may by notice to the Licensee waive the requirement for the Licensee to observe or perform any of the conditions of this Licence for such period as the Communications Authority sees fit if and so long as the Licensee satisfies the Communications Authority that the failure to observe or perform those conditions is caused by an unforeseen event which:

- (a) renders it impossible for the Licensee to observe or perform the conditions;
- (b) is not caused or contributed to by the Licensee, or any officer, employee or associate of the Licensee or any other person acting for or on behalf of the Licensee; and
- (d) in respect of which the Licensee has taken all actions as may be required, with due diligence and speed, to observe or perform the conditions of this Licence.

- 11.2 The Communications Authority may, if it considers that the event referred to in Condition 11.1 has ceased to render it impossible for the Licensee to observe or perform the conditions of this Licence, direct by notice that the waiver given under Condition 11.1 shall cease to have any effect from the date specified in the notice notwithstanding that the period specified in the notice given under Condition 11.1 has not expired, and the Licensee shall (and without prejudice to the Licensee's obligations under this Licence), as soon as practicable and with due diligence and speed, take all actions as may be required to observe or perform the conditions of this Licence.

Liability of Licensee for contraventions

12. The Licensee shall ensure that the officers, employees and associates of the Licensee, and any other person acting for or on behalf of the Licensee, shall not contravene or permit any contravention of:

- (a) any provision of the Broadcasting Ordinance, the Telecommunications Ordinance, the Communications Authority Ordinance or the Broadcasting (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance;
- (b) any provision of any Code of Practice; or
- (c) any condition of this Licence,

and shall not be relieved from any liability notwithstanding that the contravention is due to the act or omission of the officers, employees or associates of the Licensee or any other person acting for or on behalf of the Licensee.

Indemnity

13. The Licensee shall indemnify and keep indemnified the Chief Executive, the Government, the Executive Council, the Communications Authority and the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development against any and all losses, claims, charges, expenses, actions and demands whatsoever which he or it may incur or be subject to, as the case may be, as a result of or in relation to:

- (a) any breach or alleged breach of or failure or alleged failure to observe or perform any condition of this Licence by or on behalf of the Licensee; or
- (b) any act or omission by or on behalf of the Licensee in the actual or purported operation or performance of the Service or the conditions of this Licence.

Licence fee

- 14.1 The Licensee shall pay to the Communications Authority every year during the period of validity such licence fee in advance as may be prescribed from time to time by regulation made under section 42 of the Broadcasting Ordinance and in accordance with section 13 of Schedule 4 to the Broadcasting Ordinance.
- 14.2 The Licensee shall pay such other fees and charges as may be prescribed from time to time by regulation made under section 42 of the Broadcasting Ordinance and in accordance with section 13 of Schedule 4 to the Broadcasting Ordinance.
- 14.3 In the event of a revocation, surrender or suspension of this Licence, no licence fees or other fees and charges paid or payable by the Licensee before the said revocation, surrender or suspension shall be repaid or cease to be payable, as the case may be.

Investment

- 15.1 Subject to Condition 15.2 and without affecting the generality of Condition 10.1, the Licensee shall implement the Investment Plan and comply at all material times with the statements (including statements of intention) and representations made by or on its behalf in or with reference to the Investment Plan. In the event that any part of the Investment Plan is inconsistent with the conditions of this Licence, any law or Ordinance, the conditions of this Licence, the law and Ordinance shall prevail and the Investment Plan shall be construed accordingly.
- 15.2 The Communications Authority may generally or specifically in relation to a particular statement or representation referred to in Condition 15.1 by notice to the Licensee waive the requirement for the Licensee to comply with the said statement or representation and the proviso referred to in Condition 9.2 shall apply thereto *mutatis mutandis*.
- 15.3 The Licensee shall submit for approval by the Communications Authority further information and updated Investment Plan, as may be directed by the Communications Authority from time to

time, in relation to the provision of new television programme service channels.

- 15.4 Within 3 months from the last day of each accounting year of the Licensee, the Licensee shall submit to the Communications Authority a management report of the Licensee certifying the capital expenditure and non-capital expenditure in relation to programming, incurred by the Licensee in providing the Service for the preceding accounting year. The management report shall give a true and fair view of the capital expenditure and non-capital expenditure in relation to programming, so incurred by the Licensee, and shall be approved by the directors of the Licensee and signed on behalf of the board by the chairman of the meeting at which the management report was approved or by the secretary of the Licensee. The Licensee shall explain to the satisfaction of the Communications Authority if the actual annual expenditure deviates from the Investment Plan.

Submission of reports

- 16.1 The Licensee shall submit reports to the Communications Authority on or before 31 March each year on the extent to which the programming commitments in the Licensee's Proposal have been complied with in the previous calendar year ending on 31 December.
- 16.2 The Communications Authority may in its discretion make the reports referred to in Condition 16.1 publicly available in any manner as it thinks fit, in whole or in part.

The provision of a domestic free television programme service

- 17.1 The Licensee shall :
- (a) entertain, inform and educate; and
 - (b) ensure that its programming is balanced in content and provides an adequate and comprehensive Service which is responsive to the diverse needs and aspirations of the community.

- 17.2 (a) The Licensee shall at all material times provide the Service in such manner as to enable the Service to be received throughout Hong Kong to the satisfaction of the Communications Authority.
- (b) The Communications Authority may, by notice to the Licensee, exempt the Licensee from complying with Condition 17.2(a) in relation to any parts of Hong Kong specified in the notice and during any period specified in the notice, and the proviso referred to in Condition 9.2 shall apply thereto *mutatis mutandis*.
- 17.3 The Licensee shall at all material times provide all television programme service channels in accordance with the First Schedule to this Licence.
- 17.4.1 Unless the Communications Authority otherwise approves under Condition 17.4.2, the Licensee shall broadcast its Service on:
- (a) one integrated Chinese channel each day;
- (b) one integrated English channel each day; and
- (c) three thematic digital channels each day, comprising one general entertainment channel offering a mix of content customized to young viewers and adultescent, one channel on news, finance and information, and one general entertainment channel offering predominately overseas programmes, as stated in the Licensee's Proposal,
- in accordance with this Licence.
- 17.4.2 Upon application in writing by the Licensee, the Communications Authority may approve arrangements different from those in Condition 17.4.1. Without the prior written approval of the Communications Authority obtained in accordance with this Condition 17.4.2, the Licensee shall not deviate from any of the arrangements set out in Condition 17.4.1.
- 17.5 The Licensee shall ensure that each television programme service channel shall have a television programme service channel identification which, in the opinion of the Communications Authority, is not confusingly similar to any existing channel identification of any television programme service licensed or deemed to be licensed under the Broadcasting Ordinance or of any sound broadcasting licensees licensed under the Telecommunications Ordinance.
- 17.6 The Licensee shall apply up-to-date technology to perfect the

sounds and images that it broadcasts.

Comments and complaints

- 18.1 The Licensee shall receive and consider any comment or complaint from or on behalf of any person who believes himself to have been treated unjustly or unfairly in any material on the Service, or who comments or complains about the whole or part, in substance or in form, of the content, production, service coverage, technical aspects or time of viewing of the Service, including without limitation, the quality of the sounds and images that it provides, the service afforded to the complainant, or customer service.
- 18.2 The Licensee shall implement a procedure for dealing with comments and complaints from the public as may be required from time to time by the Communications Authority.
- 18.3 The Licensee shall keep a complete record, in a form and manner approved by the Communications Authority, of comments and complaints received by it and submit the same to the Communications Authority on a regular basis and on demand. The record shall be retained by the Licensee for not less than 2 years.
- 18.4 The Licensee shall comply with directions as may be given by the Communications Authority to publish, in relation to the Service and within such period as may be specified by the Communications Authority in that direction, a summary of any comment or complaint referred to in Condition 18.1. The form and content of such summary shall be subject to approval by the Communications Authority.
- 18.5 The Licensee shall supply recordings of good quality of all material on the television programme service that it provided during such period, and in such form, as the Communications Authority may direct and require for examination.

**Television
programmes,
publicity
material and
announcements
in the public
interest**

- 19.1 The Licensee shall include in its Service such:
- (a) publicity material in order to promote knowledge and understanding of the activities and functions of the Communications Authority; and
 - (b) television programmes and other material in the public interest including but not limited to weather programmes and weather forecasts provided by the Government,
- as the Communications Authority may provide or direct and at such time, within such period, on such channel, within or outside such television programmes and in such language or dialect as the Communications Authority may direct.
- 19.2 The publicity material referred to in Condition 19.1(a) may be directed to be broadcast twice daily for a total of not more than one minute on each or any of the Licensee's television programme service channels between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. subject to a maximum limit of 5 minutes in aggregate each week on each channel. This publicity material shall not be treated as counting towards the one minute total in Condition 19.3.
- 19.3 Notwithstanding Condition 19.1, the Licensee shall broadcast on each or any of the Licensee's television programme service channels such announcements as the Communications Authority shall require to be broadcast provided that such announcements shall not exceed one minute in total in any clock hour on each channel.
- 19.4 For the avoidance of doubt, the Licensee shall not, in the performance of its obligations under Condition 19, be:
- (a) responsible for the content of the material included in the Service; and
 - (b) entitled to charge the Communications Authority or the Government.

Intellectual property rights

20. The Licensee shall not do, or permit, any act or conduct in relation to the Service which is an infringement of any intellectual property right, including but not limited to any copyright.

Books and accounts to be in English or Chinese

21. All of the books and accounts of the Licensee shall be written in either the English or Chinese language.

Licensee to formulate general guidelines for employees and agents

- 22.1 The Licensee shall formulate written guidelines for all its officers, employees and agents concerned with the content of the Service stating the Licensee's principles regarding its responsibilities to the public, with particular reference to its obligations under the Codes of Practice on programme and advertising standards.
- 22.2 The Licensee shall ensure that all its officers, employees and agents are aware, and shall refresh their memory at reasonably regular intervals, of the guidelines referred to in Condition 22.1 and the Codes of Practice.
- 22.3 For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in Condition 22 shall relieve the Licensee from any obligation or liability to comply with the Codes of Practice.

Discipline and training

23. The Licensee shall ensure good discipline and training among its staff, officers, consultants and contractors, including script-writers, as regards adherence to the Codes of Practice on programme, advertising and technical standards.

Codes of Practice

24. The Licensee shall monitor and ensure strict compliance with the Codes of Practice, and technical standards and directions issued by the Communications Authority.

Interference with other services

- 25.1 The Licensee shall not use or operate any apparatus or equipment or permit or cause the same to be used or operated in any manner which causes interference with any authorised broadcasting or telecommunications services or apparatus operating in or outside Hong Kong.
- 25.2 In case of any such interference, the Licensee shall comply with all instructions given to it by the Communications Authority in respect of the use and operation of the apparatus and equipment.

Information to be provided

- 26.1 The Licensee shall provide the relevant Authority within the period specified such information as the relevant Authority may properly require.
- 26.2 Without prejudice to the power of the Communications Authority under Condition 26.1, the Licensee shall submit to the Communications Authority not later than 30 April in each year or upon request by the Communications Authority a certified true copy of the latest annual audited accounts of the Licensee prepared by an auditor. The audited accounts to be submitted for an accounting year shall include, without limitation, a reconciliation statement as at the end of the accounting year on the management report submitted by the Licensee under Condition 15.4 during the accounting year and other financial information contained in the audited accounts.

Provision of testing facilities and Service for regulatory purposes

- 27.1 Without prejudice to section 38 of the Broadcasting Ordinance, the

Communications Authority may, for the purpose of exercising its functions under this Licence, require the Licensee to demonstrate to it that in establishing, providing or operating any means of telecommunications, telecommunications installation, telecommunications line or telecommunications service, if any, or any equipment, in relation to the Service, the Licensee is not in breach of any law, Ordinance, codes of practice, directions or conditions of this Licence.

27.2 For the purpose of Condition 27.1, the Licensee shall provide adequate testing instruments and operating staff.

**Standby
equipment and
spare parts**

28. The Licensee shall provide and maintain adequate standby equipment (including but not limited to spare parts) and staff to ensure that any interruption to the Service under this Licence is avoided or minimised, and that necessary repairs or replacements are made or provided promptly.

**Use of
frequency
channels in in-
building coaxial
cable
distribution
systems**

29.1 The Licensee shall seek approval from the Communications Authority for the allocation of frequency channels in any in-building coaxial cable distribution system (“IBCCDS”) and shall comply with technical standards and directions issued by the Communications Authority.

29.2 Unless otherwise directed or approved by the Communications Authority, the number of frequency channels that the Licensee may apply for use in any IBCCDS pursuant to Condition 29.1 shall not exceed 4, of which 3 frequency channels are allocated to it and 1 frequency channel is shared with other licensee(s). The number of frequency channels that the Licensee may use in any IBCCDS for the Service shall be subject to the approval of the Communications Authority required under Condition 29.1, the limit stipulated in this Condition 29.2, the availability of vacant channels in any IBCCDS, and the choice of the building residents concerned.

Transmission of Service

30. Save where the contrary intention appears expressly or by necessary implication in this Licence, including the requirement by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development to provide the Service in digital form in the entirety under Condition 2.1(b), the Licensee shall employ the means of transmission and the transmission arrangements for the Service as stated in the Licensee's Proposal. The Licensee shall apply to the Communications Authority for approval for any substantial change in the means of transmission or transmission arrangements.

Management of Licensee

31. The Licensee shall ensure that the management of the Licensee shall not be performed by persons other than the directors and principal officers of the Licensee and persons duly authorised by the Licensee.

Other requirements

32. For the avoidance of doubt, the Licensee shall apply for such other licences, permissions, approvals, agreements or grants as may be required under any law or Ordinance if any such licence, permission, approval, agreement or grant is or becomes necessary for or in connection with the provision of the Service.

Granted on 1 December 1988

Amended on 7 October 1999, 5 December 2000, and 9 July 2002

Renewed on 12 November 2002

Amended on 7 December 2004

Further amended on 29 June 2010

Renewed on 12 May 2015

Amended on 14 February 2023

Clerk to the Executive Council

COUNCIL CHAMBER

Accepted by :

Signature :

Capacity :

Date :

FIRST SCHEDULE

THIS SCHEDULE SHALL FORM AND BE READ AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS LICENCE.

Language of Broadcast

- 1.1 The Licensee shall provide its Service on the designated integrated channels in accordance with Condition 17.4.1 of the Licence.
- 1.2 The Licensee may, with the prior approval in writing of the Communications Authority and subject to such conditions as may be imposed by it, provide the whole or any part of its Service on the designated integrated channels in any other language(s) or dialect(s).
- 1.3 The Licensee may, with the prior approval in writing of the Communications Authority and subject to such conditions as may be imposed by it, provide the whole or part of its Service on the designated integrated channels using one or more accompanying sound channels in one or more language(s) or dialect(s).

Subtitling and Sign Language

- 2.1 The Licensee shall provide subtitling and sign language for its Service, as may be directed in writing by the Communications Authority from time to time after consultation with the Licensee.
- 2.2 The Licensee may, with the prior approval in writing of the Communications Authority and subject to such conditions as may be imposed by it, deviate from the requirements in Condition 2.1 of this Schedule.

Positive Programmes

- 3.1 The Licensee shall provide in the Service such television programmes that are intended and suitable for fulfilment of the needs of the general public in Hong Kong (“positive programmes”), as may be directed in writing by the Communications Authority from time to time after consultation with the Licensee.
- 3.2 The Licensee may, with the prior approval in writing of the Communications Authority and subject to such conditions as may be imposed by it, deviate from the requirements on positive programmes in Condition 3.1 of this Schedule.

Annual Reports

- 4.1 Subject to any directions issued by the Communications Authority, the Licensee shall submit reports to the Communications Authority on or before 31 March each year on the extent to which the programmes provided in the previous calendar year ending on 31 December pursuant to Condition 3 of this Schedule have been able to achieve the respective objectives as set out in the direction(s) issued by the Communications Authority under the aforesaid Condition.
- 4.2 The Communications Authority may in its discretion make the reports referred to in Condition 4.1 of this Schedule publicly available in any manner as it thinks fit, in whole or in part.

Obligations of Licensee

- 5.1 Unless otherwise expressly stated in this Licence or directed by the Communications Authority upon application in writing by the Licensee, the obligations and requirements imposed upon the Licensee to provide certain programmes at certain times and for certain periods pursuant to Condition 3 of this Schedule shall not be discharged or satisfied to the extent the programmes so provided comprise or include television programmes, publicity material or announcements produced, commissioned or supplied by the Government or the Communications Authority.
- 5.2 Unless otherwise directed by the Communications Authority upon application in writing by the Licensee, the obligations and requirements imposed upon the Licensee to provide certain programmes at certain times and for certain periods pursuant to Condition 3 of this Schedule shall be fulfilled only by first-run programmes.
- 5.3 For the purposes of this Licence, “first-run programme” means a programme that has not previously been broadcast or provided in substantially the same form and content on any of the television programme service channel(s) of the Service.

Programmes for Schools

- 6.1 Pursuant to section 19 of the Broadcasting Ordinance, the Licensee shall include in the Service such programmes for schools supplied by the Government as may be required by the Communications Authority.

6.2

The programmes required under Condition 6.1 of this Schedule:

- (a) shall not exceed 4 hours each day unless the Communications Authority otherwise requires by serving upon the Licensee a notice in writing of not less than 30 days; and
- (b) may be provided as part of the Service on the integrated English channel unless the Communications Authority otherwise requires by serving upon the Licensee a notice in writing of not less than 30 days.

