

Appendix

Case – Radio Programme “C Hing Temple” (C Hing 祠堂) broadcast from 12:05am to 2:00am on 9 July 2019 on Radio 2 Channel of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)

A member of the public complained about the captioned programme. The substance of the complaint was that a programme host’s utterance of a foul expression twice was of low quality, unprofessional and exerted a bad influence on youth.

The Communications Authority (CA)’s Findings

In line with the established practice, the CA considered the complaint case and the representations of RTHK in detail. The CA took into account the relevant aspects of the case, including the following –

Details of the Case

- (a) the programme under complaint was a light-hearted talk show broadcast at late night; and
- (b) at around 1:38am on 9 July 2019, one of the hosts uttered a Cantonese foul expression twice. There was no sign indicating that the host concerned realised the gaffe before other hosts appeared to be trying to remind him. In response, the host concerned made an apology but without specifying what he was apologising for.

***Relevant Provision in the Radio Code of Practice on Programme Standards
(Radio Programme Code)***

- (a) paragraph 15 – expressions considered vulgar or unacceptable by an average person are to be avoided. Expressions that are definitely offensive are prohibited from use on radio.

The CA's Considerations

Having regard to the relevant facts of the case, the CA considered that –

- (a) the foul expression in question was clearly audible and was used more than once during the programme. The expression was blatantly an offensive one which was unacceptable for broadcast at all times; and
- (b) the broadcast of such an expression constituted a breach of paragraph 15 of the Radio Programme Code.

Decision

In view of the above, the CA considered that the complaint was justified. Taking into account the specific facts and circumstances of the case and other relevant factors (including the measures taken by RTHK after the incident), the CA decided that RTHK should be **strongly advised** to observe more closely paragraph 15 of the Radio Programme Code.