

Appendix

Case 1 – Radio Programme “Oppa, Sister, Night Night Friend” (Oppa ㄉㄞㄝ Night Night Friend) broadcast from 8:00pm to 9:00pm on 5 September 2019 on the Metro Info Channel of Metro Broadcast Corporation Limited (Metro)

A member of the public complained about the captioned programme. The substance of the complaint was that the topics discussed in the programme were indecent, and the remarks of the hosts were crude, which were unsuitable for broadcast at the time when people of all ages were expected to be listening.

The Communications Authority (CA)’s Findings

In line with the established practice, the CA considered the complaint case and the representations of Metro 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 from 8:00pm to 9:00pm on the day concerned;
- (b) at around 8:28pm, when discussing their everyday experiences, the two hosts discussed in detail matters relating to excretion. Towards the end of the programme, the two hosts made jokes about sexual activities; and

- (c) Metro submitted, among others, that the hosts did not intend to use vulgar or indecent expressions to cause any discomfort or unpleasant feelings to the audience, and that it had reminded the hosts to be cautious with their presentation.

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

- (a) paragraph 7(a) – a licensee should not include in its programmes any material which is indecent, obscene, or of bad taste which is not ordinarily acceptable to the listeners taking into consideration the circumstances of the broadcast of the programme. Such matter includes, but is not limited to, language and material which depict or describe, in downright offensive terms, sexual or excretory organs or activities;
- (b) paragraph 15 – expressions considered vulgar or unacceptable by an average person are to be avoided;
- (c) paragraph 16 – programming should present such subjects as violence and sex without undue emphasis and only as required by plot development or character delineation. The depiction of material reflective of sexual considerations should be handled with sensitivity; and
- (d) paragraph 19 – the standards relating to language, violence and sex should be strictly observed in programmes which might reasonably be expected to hold the attention of children and young people. It must be

borne in mind that young people make up a large part of the radio audience.

The CA's Considerations

The CA, having regard to the relevant facts of the case including the information submitted by Metro, considered that –

- (a) the hosts uttered remarks relating to excretory organs or activities which were clearly of bad taste and crass, and had gone into too much details on a distasteful subject. The hosts could be considered as having used downright offensive terms to describe the matter which were unacceptable by an average person, in a light-hearted talk show broadcast during a timeslot which young people might be listening; and
- (b) the hosts uttered remarks relating to sexual activities. Overall speaking, undue emphasis was given to the subject, and the hosts failed to handle the discussion with sensitivity, in a light-hearted talk show broadcast during a timeslot which young people might be listening.

Decision

In view of the above, the CA considered that the complaint was justified and that Metro was in breach of paragraphs 7(a), 15, 16 and 19 of the Radio Programme Code. Taking into consideration the specific facts of the present case and other relevant factors, the CA decided that Metro should be **warned** to observe more closely the relevant provisions of the Radio Programme Code.