

Breach dealt with by the Communications Authority (“CA”) in September 2026

Breach of Licence Condition by Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Company Limited (“CRHK”)

Relevant Provision

Sound Broadcasting Licence (“Licence”)
- Condition 23.1(b)

The CA’s Findings

CRHK is required under Condition 23.1(b) of the Licence to broadcast on AM864 Channel hourly news and weather reports throughout the day. To provide the necessary flexibility to the sound broadcasting licensees, the CA is authorised to approve alternative arrangements for meeting the broadcasting requirements. In this connection, CRHK had been granted approval to be exempted from the abovementioned broadcasting requirement on the condition that (a) AM864 continues to broadcast the required hourly reports from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on a daily basis; and (b) no further changes should be made to such broadcast arrangements without the CA’s prior approval.

During the period from 1 May 2022 to 2 April 2026, the hourly news and weather reports at 7:00 a.m. and from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. were not broadcast on AM864 as required by the licence condition.

The CA acknowledged CRHK’s explanation that the lapse and the inaccurate compliance records submitted during the said period resulted from human error and administrative inadvertence. CRHK made the rectification by resuming all required hourly news and weather reports since 3 April 2026. The CA also noted CRHK’s assessment that the impact on listeners was likely minimal, given the relatively small audience base of its AM channel and the availability of alternative news sources. Nonetheless, the CA considered that CRHK’s non-compliance and submission of inaccurate records to the regulatory authority over a prolonged four-year period was hardly acceptable and this lapse constituted a breach of the relevant licence condition.

Decision

Taking into account CRHK’s representations, the specific circumstances of the breach as well as all relevant facts, the CA decided to impose a

financial penalty of \$120,000 on CRHK in accordance with Section 24 of the Broadcasting (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (“B(MP)O”) (Cap. 391). Apart from the financial penalty, CRHK should enhance internal monitoring to prevent recurrence of incidents of a similar nature. In that connection, the CA has directed CRHK to submit enhanced procedures, to the satisfaction of the CA, to strengthen its internal procedures and monitoring system for ensuring compliance within one month, pursuant to Section 20 of the B(MP)O.