

# Proposed Update of the “Security Guidelines for Next Generation Networks” and “Code of Practice on the Operation and Management of Internet of Things Devices”

Telecommunications Regulatory Affairs Advisory Committee

19 December 2022



# Regulatory Requirements

- General Condition 5.1 of the Unified Carrier Licence (UCL), Services-based Operator Licence (SBO Licence) and Wireless Internet of Things (WIoT) Licence
  - The licensee is required to **provide a good, efficient and continuous service** in a manner to the satisfaction of the Communications Authority (CA)
- Special Conditions (SCs) 1.2(a), (c) and (e) of the UCL and the WIoT Licence, and SCs 12.1(a), (c) and (d) of the SBO Licence
  - The CA may issue code of practice or guidelines for the purpose of providing **practical guidance** to the licensees in respect of **the provision of satisfactory service, the protection and promotion of the interests of consumers** of telecommunications goods and services, and **correct, efficient and reliable operation of telecommunications**

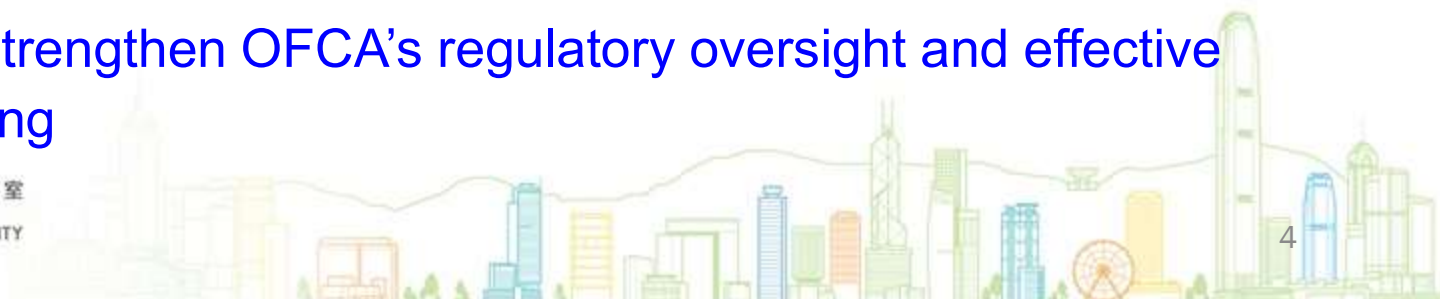
# Existing Guidelines and Code of Practice for Network and IoT Device Security

- **“Security Guidelines for Next Generation Networks”** (NGN Guidelines) was issued in 2010, with amendments in 2019 vide TRAAC Paper No. 2/2019
  - observed by **NGN operators**
  - applicable to packet-based fixed networks and the fifth generation mobile (5G) networks
- **“Code of Practice on the Operation and Management of Internet of Things Devices”** (CoP for IoT devices) was issued in 2019 vide TRAAC Paper No. 3/2019
  - observed by **IoT service providers** which provide wireless connections for their customers to connect IoT devices



# The Need for Update

- NGNs/IoT networks, services and applications are –
  - critical part of information infrastructure
  - essential for normal functioning of the society and economy
- If continuous, reliable and secure operation of them is adversely affected by system failures, accidents, malicious attacks or other disruptions to them, it may cause serious harm to economic activities, public services, people's livelihood, and even national security
- OFCA proposes relevant updates to the NGN Guidelines and CoP for IoT devices to –
  - enhance security and reliability of telecommunications networks, services and applications
  - further strengthen OFCA's regulatory oversight and effective monitoring



# The Proposal

- Relevant NGN operators and IoT service providers should, on an annual basis –
  - [conduct regular health check](#) and [complete checklists](#) about compliance with measures and best practices therein
  - [submit completed checklists](#) together with relevant supplementary information and supporting document (if any)
- OFCA encourages all NGN operators and IoT service providers, in particular [local fixed and mobile network operators](#), to pledge compliance
- In recognition of their commitment to compliance, OFCA will [publish a summary](#) highlighting those operators which have conducted the annual health check and confirmed overall compliance with requirements on OFCA's thematic webpage for public information
- The requirement of [submission of NGN development status to OFCA on an annual basis](#) is incorporated in the NGN Guidelines for effective monitoring and ensuring that information provided to ITU accurately reflects Hong Kong's position

# Views Sought

- Members are invited to give their views and comments on the proposal
- OFCA, taking into account the feedbacks from the industry, will finalise the documents and make recommendation on the matter to the CA for approval



# Thank You

