

Telecommunications Regulatory Affairs Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Twenty-Ninth Meeting Held on Thursday, 21 August 2025 at 2:30 p.m. in OFCA Conference Room, 20/F Wu Chung House

Members Present

Mr Esmond Chiu	Office of the Communications Authority ("OFCA") ("Chairman")
Mr Sidney Tsan	OFCA ("Secretary")
Ir George Chan	The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Mr Ben Li	The Institution of Engineering and Technology Hong Kong ("IETHK")
Mr Francis Fong	Hong Kong Information Technology Federation
Mr Karson Ng	China Telecom Global Limited
Miss Katherine Kwok	HGC Global Communications Limited
Mr Raymond Chan	Hong Kong Cable Television Limited
Mr Kevin Chu	Hong Kong Telecommunications (HKT) Limited / PCCW-HKT Telephone Limited and Hong Kong Telecommunications (HKT) Limited / PCCW Global (HK) Limited / Genius Brand Limited
Ms Sarah Hui	Hutchison Telephone Company Limited ("HTCL")
Mr Tin-Lun Or	SmarTone Communications Limited / SmarTone Mobile Communications Limited
Mr Hing-Wah Ngan	Towngas Telecommunications Fixed Network Limited
Mr Terence Ho	TraxComm Limited
Mr Tony Tsang	VNET Group Limited
Mr Tony Chan	Unified Carrier (External Fixed Services) Licensees as a group
Mr Tony Lam	External Telecommunications Services Operators as a group
Mr Derek So	Localised Wireless Broadband Service /

	Localised Wireless Broadband System (Private) / Public Radiocommunications Service / Wireless Internet of Things Licensees as a group
Ir Chi-Wah Tang	Hong Kong Police Force
Mr Ricky Chong	Ad Personam
Dr Ivan Ho	Ad Personam
Ms Katy Lau	Ad Personam

In Attendance

Mr Bruce Chan	IETHK
Mr Alex Tsang	China Mobile Hong Kong Company Limited ("CMHK")
Mr Andrew Tam	China Unicom (Hong Kong) Operations Limited ("China Unicom")
Mr Kenneth Kwok	ComNet Telecom (HK) Limited ("ComNet")
Mr Kit Chan	Easy Tone Network Limited ("Easy Tone")
Mr Malcolm Leong	Hong Kong Broadband Network Limited / HKBN Enterprise Solutions Limited / HKBN Enterprise Solutions HK Limited ("HKBN")
Miss Shelley Ng	Village Telephone Limited ("VTL")
Mr Eddy Ng	OFCA
Mr Benson Cheng	OFCA
Ms Christine Chim	OFCA
Mr Ken Sit	OFCA
Mr Desmond Young	OFCA
Mr Charles Chow	OFCA
Ms Vera Chung	OFCA
Mr Jordan Lee	OFCA
Mr Dennis Leung	OFCA
Mr Penny Lo	OFCA
Mr Patrick Man	OFCA
Mr Eric Yung	OFCA
Mr Kenneth Leung	OFCA
Mr Allen Au-yeung	OFCA

Ms Sherrine Lo	OFCA
Mr Freeman Wong	OFCA

Observers

Ms Rosita Cheng	CMHK
Mr Chad Sing	HTCL

Members Absent

Mr Michael Kan	Consumer Council
Mr Alex Wong	Communications Association of Hong Kong
Ms Noel Chu	CMHK
Ms Lillian Liu	China Unicom
Mr Dickson Ip	ComNet
Mr Law Jia	Easy Tone
Ms Sophia Yap	HKBN
Mr Patrick Ng	NTT Com Asia Limited
Ms Clio Ip	VTL
Mr Haining Hu	Vodafone Enterprise Hong Kong Limited
Mr David Ong	Xenith IG Hong Kong Limited
Mr Yu Yang	Services-based Operator Licensees as a group
Dr Yaru Fu	Ad Personam

The Chairman welcomed all participants to the meeting.

Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

2. The Chairman said that the draft minutes of the 28th meeting were circulated to Members for comment on 26 February 2025. As no comment was received from Member, the minutes of the 28th meeting were confirmed.

Item 2 Matters Arising

3. Regarding the Code of Practice for the Provision of Mobile Access Facilities in Specified Buildings for the Provision of Public Mobile Radiocommunications Services (TRAAC Paper No. 1/2025), the Secretary reported that under the amended section 14 of the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106), mobile network operators (“MNOs”) authorised by the Communications Authority (“CA”) would be able to access reserved space in specified buildings with building plans approved on or after 1 April 2025 to install and maintain mobile communications facilities without paying a fee to the property owners concerned. Certain newly approved residential, commercial and industrial buildings under development, including both private and public properties, had already reserved floor space for installation of mobile access facilities.

4. Regarding the Use of “iAM Smart” for Real Name Registration of Pre-paid SIM Cards (TRAAC Paper No. 2/2025), the Secretary reported that all relevant telecommunications service providers (“TSPs”) had adopted “iAM Smart” as the default method for real name registration (“RNR”) of pre-paid SIM (“PPS”) cards using Hong Kong Identity (“HKID”) cards starting from 1 October 2024. OFCA was working with relevant TSPs to further tighten up the RNR programme by proposing the adoption of “iAM Smart” as the single online means for completing RNR using HKID cards.

5. As regards the Voice Alerts for Calls Made by Newly Activated Local PPS Cards (TRAAC Paper No. 3/2025), the Secretary reported that OFCA had requested all relevant TSPs to include a notice in the PPS card packaging to notify customers that there would be voice alerts for making calls by newly activated local PPS cards.

6. Mr Francis Fong suggested that a centralised platform should be set up for “iAM Smart” users to enquire about the number of PPS cards registered under their names. The Chairman said that OFCA would take into account the suggestion when considering the future enhancement of the RNR programme. Any member of the public having difficulties to make enquiries with TSPs could contact OFCA for assistance.

Item 3 Use of Spectrum in the 1.4 GHz Band in Support of the Development of Low-Altitude Economy (TRAAC Paper No. 5/2025)

7. The Chairman invited Mr Kenneth Leung to brief Members on the use of the 1.4 GHz band in support of the development of low-altitude economy (“LAE”).

8. Ir George Chan enquired about the transmit power limit of unmanned aircraft systems (“UAS”) operating in the 1.4 GHz band and whether other frequency bands would be considered for use by UAS operations in the future by making reference to recommendations from the International Telecommunication Union or relevant spectrum planning by other authorities. Mr Ken Sit replied that the same technical arrangements as promulgated by the Mainland, including the transmit power limit, would be adopted to ensure spectrum compatibility and equipment availability. The Chairman added that this would facilitate cross-boundary operations of UAS in the future. OFCA would closely monitor the global UAS development to ensure the spectrum planning in Hong Kong would be in line with the Mainland and other economies.

9. In response to Ms Sarah Hui’s suggestion on the assignment of spectrum in the 1.4 GHz band for the provision of public radiocommunications services for UAS, Mr Ken Sit said that the 1.4 GHz band would be allocated for use only by private UAS operations in line with the arrangement adopted in the Mainland. OFCA would consider whether this band might be allocated for public services in the future subject to future market development. Mr Charles Chow added that the 1.4 GHz band would provide additional frequency channels to eligible UAS operators’ private operations along specific flight paths in addition to the commonly used Wi-Fi or 4G/5G public mobile networks to operate UAS.

10. Mr Francis Fong asked whether UAS operators would be required to seek approvals from relevant authorities for commercial UAS operations along the proposed flight paths. Mr Ken Sit replied that UAS operators would be required to obtain approvals from the relevant Government departments, including the Civil Aviation Department, for commercial UAS operations. Regarding the use of the 1.4 GHz band, UAS operators would be required to meet relevant technical and licensing

requirements. The Chairman added that, for commercial UAS operations using public mobile networks (e.g. 4G/5G networks), UAS operators must coordinate with the relevant MNOs to ensure adequate mobile network coverage along the proposed flight paths.

Item 4 Review of the Real Name Registration Programme and Proposed Legislative Amendments to the RNR Regulation in Hong Kong (TRAAC Paper No. 6/2025)

11. The Chairman invited Mr Jordan Lee to brief Members on the subject review and proposed legislative amendments.

12. In response to enquiry from Mr Ben Li and Mr Tony Chan, Mr Eddy Ng replied that the proposed registration limit of PPS cards per person would be on a per TSP basis.

13. Mr Francis Fong enquired about the implications of the provision of eSIM cards on the RNR programme. Mr Eddy Ng replied that under the RNR programme, the same set of registration requirements was already applicable to both eSIM and physical SIM cards. The Chairman added that OFCA would monitor the market development of eSIM cards and assess their impact on the RNR programme.

14. In response to an enquiry from Mr Kevin Chu, Mr Eddy Ng said that the proposed legislative amendments to the RNR Regulation would include the proposed waiver for TSPs to obtain HKID card copy from users for RNR completed via “iAM Smart”.

15. Ms Sarah Hui enquired about the basis on which the registration limit of 3 PPS cards per TSP per person was proposed. Mr Eddy Ng said that the proposal had taken into account statistics collected from TSPs that PPS cards registered under the same HKID or non-HKID document (e.g. passports and other travel documents) with one to three PPS cards accounted for 90% of all registered PPS cards. The Chairman added that the proposal had also made reference to the registration limits adopted in other jurisdictions.

16. Mr Francis Fong commented that TSPs should encourage users with HKID cards to register their PPS cards via “iAM Smart” given

its high reliability and low usage cost. The Chairman suggested that TSPs could also make concessionary offers to provide incentive to PPS card users to complete RNR via “iAM Smart”.

17. Mr Chad Sing shared HTCL’s operational experience that most suspected scam calls blocked by HTCL were found to be associated with PPS cards registered using foreign identification documents and there were practical difficulties for HTCL to authenticate such documents when processing RNR requests. The Chairman said that OFCA would continue to explore practical ways to enhance the RNR programme while at the same time would need to strike a balance and avoid causing inconvenience to travellers to Hong Kong.

18. Mr Ben Li enquired about the existing arrangements for blocking scam calls by TSPs. The Chairman said that all relevant TSPs were handling scam calls in accordance with the Code of Practice on Management of Scam Calls and Scam SMS by Telecommunications Service Providers issued by CA.

19. Ms Sarah Hui commented that call filtering apps such as Whoscall and Scameter+ were useful and suggested OFCA promote the use of such apps to the public for combating scams. Mr Chad Sing added that Scameter+ should update its blocking list at the soonest possible time to enhance effectiveness. The Chairman said that unlike commercial call filtering apps, which targeted both suspicious scam calls and nuisance telemarketing calls, Scameter+ focused on the former only and its blocking list was subject to Police’s verification procedures. As for public education, OFCA would continue to actively promote public awareness of call filtering apps and other anti-scam measures. The Chairman further suggested TSPs consider offering appropriate assistance to their customers for combating scams (e.g. free call-filtering services).

Item 5 Subsidy Scheme to Extend 5G Coverage in Rural and Remote Areas (TRAAC Paper No. 7/2025)

20. Mr Dennis Leung briefed Members on the Subsidy Scheme to Extend 5G Coverage in Rural and Remote Areas (“Scheme”). The Chairman encouraged all MNOs to expedite the submission of applications under the Scheme.

21. Mr Kevin Chu enquired about the arrangement for disbursement of subsidy among MNOs under the Scheme. Mr Eddy Ng replied that subsidy for installation of radio base stations (“RBS”) at a site would be granted to the lead MNO, who would take the coordination role to distribute the relevant amount of subsidy to other participating MNOs in accordance with their commercial agreements. Ms Christine Chim supplemented that the subsidy would be provided on a reimbursement basis subject to the approved cap, after MNOs’ completion of the RBS installation and submission of audited accounts for vetting of the actual expenditure incurred.

22. Ms Shelley Ng enquired whether the list of proposed RBS sites under the Scheme would be available to parties other than the MNOs. Mr Dennis Leung replied that the list was available at Annex to the paper¹ for briefing the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting of the Legislative Council. The Chairman added that the list covered preliminarily proposed RBS sites, which were drawn up after discussions with MNOs and relevant Government departments. The final locations of the RBS sites under the Scheme would be subject to the actual circumstances of the implementation process.

Item 6 Any Other Business

23. The Chairman advised that the next TRAAC meeting would tentatively be held in late 2025 / early 2026 tentatively. Members would be informed of the meeting arrangement nearer the time.

24. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Office of the Communications Authority
September 2025

¹ <https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr2025/english/panels/itb/papers/itb20250210cb2-180-2-e.pdf>.