Hong Kong people are kept well informed by a vigorous media. They have a vast appetite for news and this demand has given rise to a healthy and outward-looking press, radio and television industry that enjoys complete freedom of expression.

As at November 30, 2019, there were 82 daily newspapers and 531 periodicals (including a number of electronic newspapers), three domestic free television programme service licensees, two domestic pay television programme service licensees, 12 non-domestic television programme service licensees, one government-funded public service broadcaster, and two sound broadcasting licensees.

The availability of the latest telecommunications technology and keen interest in Hong Kong's affairs have attracted many international news agencies, newspapers with international readership and overseas broadcasting corporations to establish regional headquarters or representative offices in Hong Kong. The successful regional publications produced underline its important position as a financial, industrial, trading and communications centre.

Press: The Hong Kong newspapers registered as at November 30, 2019 included 53 Chinese-language dailies, 12 English-language dailies (including one in Braille), 13 bilingual dailies and 4 Japanese dailies. Among the Chinese-language dailies, 46 cover mainly local and overseas general news, and the remaining ones specialise in other subjects such as finance. The larger papers include overseas Chinese communities in their distribution networks, and some have editions printed outside Hong Kong, in particular in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia. One of the English dailies publishes a daily Braille edition, in conjunction with the Hong Kong Society for the Blind. Hong Kong is a major international media centre in Asia and the regional base for a number of media groups including the Financial Times, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times International, TIME Asia, Agence-France Presse, Bloomberg and CNNI.

Broadcasting: Hong Kong has a vibrant broadcasting sector offering a wide range of services to local viewers and listeners. Hong Kong viewers and listeners have access to over 800 local and overseas television channels in various languages through free-to-air terrestrial and satellite reception or pay television services, and 13 analogue radio channels provided by two commercial broadcasters and Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), the public service broadcaster.

At the same time, it is a regional broadcasting hub with 12 licensees uplinking over 220 satellite television channels for the regional market. The domestic free television programme service licensees launched digital terrestrial television service on December 31, 2007. Three licensees are currently providing three television channels in analogue format and nine television channels (including simulcasting the three analogue channels) in digital format, all of which are free. Terrestrial television broadcasters are migrating to digital broadcasting and the Government is updating the regulatory regime in the light of technological and market convergence.

The broadcasting policy objectives are to promote programme choice and diversity through competition to facilitate introduction of new, innovative broadcasting services, and to enhance Hong Kong’s position as a regional broadcasting hub.

Communications Authority (CA): The CA is an independent statutory body established under the Communications Authority Ordinance (Cap.616) (CAO) to regulate the broadcasting and telecommunications industries in Hong Kong. It comprises 10 non-official members from various sectors of the community and two public officers. As a unified regulator, the CA’s functions are:
- to regulate the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors by performing the functions conferred on it by the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap.106), Broadcasting Ordinance (Cap.562), Broadcasting (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap.391) and the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Ordinance (Cap.593);
- to tender advice to the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development on any legislation, legislative proposals and regulatory policies relating to telecommunications, broadcasting, anti-spamming or activities connected with the telecommunications or broadcasting sectors; and
- to enforce the fair trading sections of the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (Cap.362) and the Competition Ordinance (Cap.619) in the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors.

Information Policy: The Secretary for Home Affairs oversees the policy on dissemination of government information, while the Director of Information Services advises the Government on the presentation of its policies, and on public relations matters generally, in Hong Kong and overseas.

Information Services Department: The Information Services Department (ISD) serves as the Government's public relations and advertising agency, publisher and news organisation, media adviser and research unit.

The department comprises four divisions: Local Public Relations, Publicity and Promotions, Public Relations Outside Hong Kong, and Administration. Local Public Relations Division: The division oversees the work of the Information Grade officers who serve as Press Secretaries to Principal Officials or work in the 38 information and public relations units in bureaus and departments. They
Public Relations Outside Hong Kong Division: It helps develop and implement the government’s public relations and communications strategy outside Hong Kong, working closely with the government’s offices overseas, in the Mainland and in Taiwan. Its Overseas Public Relations Sub-division promotes and monitors Hong Kong’s image overseas and liaises closely with some 80 foreign media organizations based in Hong Kong, handling press enquiries, disseminating news and arranging briefings and interviews. It also runs a programme for visiting journalists, produces summaries of overseas reports on Hong Kong. To tie in with the outbound visits of senior officials, it coordinates and implements overseas publicity projects. The sub-division partners with internationally renowned media organisations to produce multimedia publicity materials to promote Hong Kong’s strengths and advantages.

The Visits and International Conferences Sub-division oversees the ISD’s Sponsored Visitors Programme for government and political leaders, academics and think-tank members, as well as leading figures in the business and financial sectors to visit Hong Kong to enhance their understanding of the city. The sub-division also helps line up meetings for influential visitors on trips to Hong Kong. In addition, it provides assistance in the outbound visits of senior government officials to other economies.

Government Home Pages on the Internet: GovHK (www.gov.hk) is the one-stop portal providing citizens with the most sought-after government services and information relevant to their everyday life. Users can also create their own MyGovHK accounts to enjoy a vast array of personalised services, such as accessing multiple government services via one single account, viewing online service messages and receiving updates on their interested topics.

All press releases and selected news on GovHK are also made accessible via hyperlinks to news.gov.hk.