

**Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of  
the Sha Tin District Council in 2022**

**Date :** 24 November 2022 (Thursday)  
**Time :** 2:30 pm  
**Venue :** Sha Tin District Office Conference Room 441  
 4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Time of joining the meeting</u></b>	<b><u>Time of leaving the meeting</u></b>
Vice-Chairman : Mr SIN Cheuk-nam	2:30 pm	3:14 pm
Members : Mr CHENG Chung-hang	2:30 pm	3:14 pm
Mr CHOW Hiu-laam, Felix	2:30 pm	3:14 pm
Mr CHUNG Lai-him, Johnny	2:30 pm	3:14 pm
Mr HUI Lap-san	2:39 pm	3:14 pm
Dr LAM Kong-kwan	2:41 pm	3:14 pm
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	2:43 pm	3:14 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	2:30 pm	3:14 pm
Secretary : Mr SHIU Kan-yun, Roy	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Sha Tin District Office	

<b><u>In Attendance</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>
Ms OR Kar-lok, Carol, JP	District Officer (Sha Tin)
Ms LEE Ching-yee, Patty	Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)1 (Atg)
Mr LEUNG Wai-yuen, Tommy	Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)2 (Atg)
Mr LIU Wai-man, Raymond	Senior Executive Officer (District Management), Sha Tin District Office
Mr HO Kin-nam, David	Executive Officer I (District Council)1, Sha Tin District Office
Ms LAI Pik-ngor, Jenny	District Commander (Shatin) (Atg), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms AU Wing-chi	Police Community Relations Officer (Shatin) (Atg), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr CHAN Ka-kui	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Ms OR Siu-shan	Chief Health Inspector (Sha Tin)2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr TANG Kin-hung	Chief Manager/Management (Tai Po, North and Shatin) (Atg), Housing Department
Ms FUNG Shuk-man, Wendy	District Social Welfare Officer (Sha Tin), Social Welfare Department
Mr WONG Kwok-wai, Wilson	District Lands Officer/Shatin, Lands Department
Mr YEUNG Wai-dor, Brian	Administrative Assistant/Lands (Atg), District Lands Office, Sha Tin, Lands Department
Ms CHAN Hau-yin, Margaret	District Planning Officer/Shatin, Tai Po and North, Planning Department

**In Attendance**

Mr CHUNG Wing-hong, John

Ms WONG Kam-lai

Mr CHOW Tik-sang, Dickson

Mr NG Hon-lai, Patrick

Mr SIT Kim-wai, Ken

Mr WONG Wing-tat, Matthew

Mr WONG Kwun-wa, Eric

**Title**

Chief Engineer/North 2,  
Civil Engineering and Development Department  
Chief School Development Officer (Sha Tin),  
Education Bureau  
District Leisure Manager (Sha Tin),  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department  
Principal Transport Officer/New Territories 1,  
Transport Department  
Senior Telecommunications Engineer  
(Spectrum Planning)2,  
Office of the Communications Authority  
Senior Regulatory Affairs Manager  
(Market and Competition 22)2,  
Office of the Communications Authority  
Telecommunications Engineer  
(Broadcasting Support)3,  
Office of the Communications Authority

**Absent**

Mr MAK Yun-pui, Chris (Chairman)

(Application for leave of absence received)

**Action**

The Vice-Chairman welcomed Members and representatives of government departments to the fifth meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) in 2022.

**Application for Leave of Absence**

2. The Vice-Chairman said that the STDC Secretariat (Secretariat) had received an application for leave of absence in writing from the following Member:

Mr Chris MAK

Official commitment

3. The Council approved the application for leave of absence submitted by the Member above.

**Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 2 September 2022**  
(STDC Minutes 4/2022)

4. The Council unanimously endorsed the above minutes.

**Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 29 September 2022**  
(STDC Minutes 5/2022)

5. The Vice-Chairman said that the draft minutes had been sent out earlier and the Secretariat received Mr Felix CHOW's proposed amendment prior to the meeting. The original and amended parts were placed on the meeting table for Members' perusal. He asked Members whether they had any other proposed amendment.

6. Members unanimously endorsed the proposed amendment put forward by Mr Felix CHOW prior to the meeting and the draft minutes.

7. The Vice-Chairman said that the visit to the STDC by the Commissioner for Labour was originally scheduled for today, but he learnt that the Commissioner was now unable to attend this meeting. He wished to know how the Secretariat would follow up on this.

8. Mr Roy SHIU, Senior Executive Officer (District Council) of the Sha Tin District Office, said that the Commissioner for Labour was currently undergoing home quarantine in accordance with the Centre for Health Protection's guidelines and was therefore unable to attend this meeting. The Secretariat would continue to maintain contact with the Labour Department, and further information on the subsequent arrangement would be relayed to the STDC when available.

### Question

Question to be Raised by Mr CHOW Hiu-laam, Felix on the Matters Concerning the Interference on the Television Signal Reception from the Mobile Network Signals for 5G Services in Sha Tin District

(Paper No. STDC 40/2022)

9. The views of Mr Felix CHOW were summarised below:

- (a) starting from 2021, the Communications Authority (CA) had gradually migrated the television broadcast frequency channel from the 600 and 700 MHz bands to 400 and 500 MHz bands to make the spectrum available for supporting the development of 5G mobile communications services. Since 30 June this year, the CA had reassigned the spectrum in the 700 MHz band, which was originally assigned for television broadcast and had been earlier withdrawn, for the provision of 5G mobile communications services. As the common antennae of some buildings or antennae of individual households were still able to receive signals in the bands above 700 MHz, households in close proximity to 5G radio base stations (RBSs) had experienced interference with television signal, screen flickering and absence of signals since the operation of the RBSs;
- (b) he noted that the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) published the matters about the upgrade to 5G mobile communications services and television signal reception in a press release at the end of June this year, and advised households affected by 5G mobile communications signals to install a filter between the antenna system and the amplifier to filter the spectrum in bands above 700 MHz, which had been allocated to 5G mobile communications services, in order to improve signal reception. He was of the view that only publishing the information concerned through the said channel was inadequate;
- (c) he wished to know whether the CA or other relevant departments would consider following the approach taken in the analogue television replacement scheme to assist affected elderly persons and low-income households in installing filters in their antenna systems to resolve the signal reception problems; and

- (d) he said the television reception of rural residents was more affected by the upgrade to 5G mobile communications services. He opined that the Home Affairs Department should assist OFCA in disseminating relevant news among residents affected in the district as well as explaining and introducing the potential impacts to the residents.

10. Mr Matthew WONG, Senior Regulatory Affairs Manager (Market and Competition 22)2 of OFCA, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) as at 31 October 2022, OFCA received a total of 662 applications for the use of RBSs in Sha Tin District. 600 cases were approved (including 26 applications involving government venues). About 19 applications were processed each month on average;
- (b) OFCA launched the “Subsidy Scheme for Encouraging Early Deployment of 5G” under the second round of “Anti-epidemic Fund” of the Government on 5 May 2020 with an aim to encourage various sectors to deploy 5G technology early to improve operational efficiency, productivity and quality of services, thereby enhancing Hong Kong’s competitiveness in innovation, technology and advanced communication. The Government would subsidise 50% of the actual cost directly related to the deployment of 5G technology in an approved project, subject to a cap of \$500,000. The scheme was well-received from various sectors since its implementation. A total of 595 applications were received by OFCA thus far, of which 160 cases were approved, covering innovative applications in a number of sectors, including construction, property and building facilities management, transport, medical, healthcare and public health, environmental protection, finance and insurance, education, marketing, and agriculture and fishery, etc. From submitting a completed application to receiving the application result from OFCA, each application took about 3 weeks on average to process. The average subsidy received by approved projects was about \$442,000;
- (c) OFCA had received applications from organisations or companies in Sha Tin District, for example a project by CUHK Medical Centre on utilisation of 5G in remote medical training and consultation. As the scheme aimed to encourage various sectors to deploy 5G technology early in the territory, approved projects could generally apply the technology in any places in Hong Kong with 5G coverage in a flexible manner, so OFCA had not categorised applications by district and was unable to provide the requested figures of Sha Tin District;
- (d) the “Subsidy Scheme to Support Upgrading of Satellite Master Antenna Television (SMATV) Systems” launched by OFCA in November 2019 was completed in November 2020 and a total of 1 048 applications were received. 86 applications were from Sha Tin District, among which 84 were approved while two were withdrawn by the applicants. As SMATV Systems were used for receiving satellite television signals and did not have the function of emitting radio signals, the relevant system upgrade would not cause any interference to 5G systems;

- (e) in support of telecommunications and smart city developments in Hong Kong, the spectrum in the 700 MHz band originally used for television broadcast had been reassigned for the provision of mobile telecommunications services. Starting from 30 June this year, mobile network operators (operators) had gradually activated their RBSs operating in the 700 MHz band for the provision of 5G services to the public. As the spectrum in the 700 MHz band was used for television broadcast in the past, common antenna broadcast distribution (CABD) systems of buildings or self-provided antennae of individual households in tenement buildings or village houses (collectively known as “antenna system”) might still be able to receive signals in that particular band. If an antenna system was in close proximity to an RBS and had not been installed with suitable protective equipment (such as filter), the reception of television signals would likely be affected by the mobile network signals. OFCA had published a relevant press release and consumer alert on 29 June this year and had been distributing information leaflets since July to draw public attention to the television reception issue;
- (f) as at the end of October, OFCA had received a total of 409 enquiries or complaints related to television reception. After receiving a case, OFCA would conduct analysis with reference to the information provided by the person concerned in order to offer technical advice. On-site signal measurements would be conducted depending on the actual situation of each case to help improve the reception; and
- (g) the situation this time was different from that of analogue television replacement. Not every antenna system would be affected by RBSs operating in the 700 MHz band, and households affected in general only had to adjust the direction of the receiving antenna and/or install a suitable filter by themselves to resolve the television reception problems. If members of the public had any enquiries about television reception, they could contact OFCA for assistance.

11. Ms Patty LEE, Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin)1 (Atg), said that the Sha Tin District Office (STDO) had not received complaints about unstable television reception caused by RBS installation in Sha Tin District over the past year. If necessary, the STDO would be prepared to offer suitable assistance as per the relevant departments’ request.

12. The views of Mr Felix CHOW were summarised below:

- (a) he noted as at the end of October, OFCA received a total of 409 enquiries or complaints related to television reception affected by RBS installation. He considered that the figures might not be able to reflect the actual number of households affected; and
- (b) he knew OFCA could offer assistance to members of the public whose television reception was affected by the construction of RBSs in the vicinity. However, these households might have to wait for one to two weeks before the problems could be resolved. In his view, OFCA should have offered advice and assistance to members of the public possible to be affected before the RBSs were constructed, so that the impact of the completion of RBSs on television reception in residences could be reduced.

13. The views of Mr WAI Hing-cheung were summarised below:

- (a) he wished to know the criteria of the relevant departments for approving the construction of RBSs by operators, and whether the consideration factors included whether the RBS installation and operation would affect television reception in nearby residences;
- (b) he noted OFCA could provide assistance to members of the public affected and wished to learn about the specifics;
- (c) he noted the Government would subsidise 50% of the actual cost directly related to the deployment of 5G technology in an approved project under the “Subsidy Scheme for Encouraging Early Deployment of 5G”, subject to a cap of \$500,000. However, households near RBSs had to purchase extra equipment (such as filter) at their own expense or else they could not continue to receive television signals. He would like to know whether the Government would subsidise the purchase of filters by these individuals affected to fix the television reception issues; and
- (d) he wished to know the distribution of the 409 related enquiries or complaints received by OFCA by district and whether cases related to Sha Tin District were primarily from the same housing estate or village.

14. The views of Mr CHENG Chung-hang were summarised below:

- (a) he wished to know whether the CA, before promoting 5G technology, had considered that the construction of RBSs might affect the television reception of nearby residences; and
- (b) he agreed that the development of 5G technology was the new trend for telecommunications development. He however considered that the relevant department had not done enough on the promotion and assistance to the public. He wished to know whether the relevant department would consider subsidising the affected grassroots to install filters to resolve television reception problems, following the approach taken in the analogue television replacement scheme.

15. The views of Mr HUI Lap-san were summarised below:

- (a) as far as he knew, operators mainly used the 3.5 GHz band for providing 5G mobile communications services. He asked whether Ma On Shan area was covered by the 3.5 GHz band. If not, he wished to know when the 3.5 GHz band could cover Ma On Shan area;
- (b) he said he received complaints from the public in recent months that they were unable to receive the free television channel 77. As he understood, Fantastic Television Limited (Fantastic TV) had transmitted its television signals through the fixed network of Hong Kong Cable Television Limited (Cable TV) for many years to broadcast three free television channels. Starting from this year, Fantastic TV changed to use both radio spectrum and fixed network to transmit its television signals. As some CABD systems provided by Cable TV did not support the signals

transmitted by radio spectrum, households of buildings using such systems could not receive channel 77;

- (c) he said some households had reflected the said problem to Cable TV but Cable TV indicated that an inspection fee of \$150 would be charged per household for door-to-door inspection. Subsequently, Cable TV offered discretionary waiver to the inspection fee only after learning that nearly a hundred households in Kam Fung Court and Chung On Estate experienced problem with signal reception of channel 77 caused by the said situation; and
- (d) he wished to know whether Cable TV was allowed to charge the public in the above situation, how the relevant department regulated free television licence holders, and the complaint mechanism.

16. Mr Eric WONG, Telecommunications Engineer (Broadcasting Support)3 of OFCA, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) OFCA had carried out a series of promotion on how to ensure television reception remaining in good order after the 700 MHz band was used in 5G services. Firstly, in June this year, OFCA issued letters to remind the SMATV licence holders who were responsible for maintenance of CABD systems to inspect the CABD systems of their responsible buildings as soon as possible for the purpose of ensuring that the television reception of these buildings would not be affected by RBSs operating in the 700 MHz band;
- (b) in respect of residences such as tenement buildings and village houses with self-provided private antennae, in June this year, OFCA distributed promotional leaflets to New Territories Heung Yee Kuk and 27 Rural Committees. It also disseminated information to the public through channels such as press releases and updates on online social media platforms to draw public attention to how to ensure television reception remaining in good order after the 700 MHz band was used in 5G services. In addition, in response to the relevant enquiries received, OFCA had distributed promotional leaflets to individual stakeholders starting from August;
- (c) the 409 related enquiries or complaints received by OFCA were not concentrated in the same district. Among them, 20 cases came from different areas in Sha Tin District, including Chek Nai Ping Village, Tai Shui Hang Village, Ficus Garden, Sun Chui Estate and San Tin Village, etc.;
- (d) after receiving enquiries or complaints about television reception, OFCA would conduct analysis with reference to the information provided by the persons concerned in order to offer technical advice. To help improve the reception, OFCA would also conduct on-site signal measurements and demonstrate to the persons concerned how to use a filter depending on the actual situation of each case;
- (e) he indicated that an RBS might affect television reception only if the residence was in close proximity to the RBS and the antenna system concerned was not installed with appropriate protective equipment (such as filter);

- (f) generally speaking, the costs of installation and maintenance of television reception systems were borne by the owners of the antenna systems. He said that Cable TV charging residents for their request for door-to-door inspection of antenna systems was a usual practice; and
- (g) members of the public might approach OFCA for assistance if they had any enquiries about television signal reception.

17. Mr Ken SIT, Senior Telecommunications Engineer (Spectrum Planning)2 of OFCA, gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) before installing an RBS, apart from obtaining consent from the owners or manager of the property concerned, an operator shall also ensure that the proposed RBS would comply with requirements such as land planning and user restrictions as well as structural safety. The operator shall also apply to the relevant government departments for approval depending on the circumstances;
- (b) according to the requirement imposed by the relevant telecommunications licence, an operator shall obtain approval from the CA before using an RBS. As the enforcement agency of the CA, OFCA would assess the technical requirements of the RBS in respect of electromagnetic compatibility and radiation safety in considering the approval for using the RBS;
- (c) when assessing the application for use of an RBS operating in the 700 MHz band, the actual impacts depended on the relative positions of individual antenna systems and the RBS as well as technical specification and maintenance condition of antenna system fittings. It was difficult to make assessment of individual impacts without accurate understanding of such information. That said, OFCA estimated that the affected households only accounted for the minority in general. Any members of the public encountering television reception problem were advised to contact their maintenance contractors of the CABD systems or make a phone call to OFCA for assistance as soon as possible. OFCA would be ready to provide technical advice to help improve the situation; and
- (d) to protect the satellite communications equipment of the two satellite companies in Tai Po Industrial Estate, the CA had set up restriction zone in Tai Po covering Ma On Shan. Operators could set up RBSs operating in the 3.5 GHz band (3.5 GHz RBSs) with limitations in the restriction zone for providing 5G services. Operators could also use other 5G bands including the 700 MHz band and 4.9 GHz band or re-organise the bands currently being used for 2G, 3G and 4G to provide 5G services. Lastly, the two satellite companies would move their satellite communications equipment away from Tai Po Industrial Estate in 2024. The limitations on setting up 3.5 GHz RBSs in the restriction zone could be relaxed by then.

**Information Items**

Reports of Committees under the STDC

Traffic and Transport Committee

(Paper No. STDC 41/2022)

Culture, Recreation and Sports and Community Facilities Management Committee

(Paper No. STDC 42/2022)

Education and Welfare Committee

(Paper Nos. STDC 43/2022 and STDC 44/2022)

Development, Housing, Environment and Health Committee

(Paper No. STDC 45/2022)

18. The Council noted the above five reports of the committees.

**Information Paper**

Report of the District Management Committee

(Paper No. STDC 46/2022)

19. The Council noted the above report.

**Date and Time of Next Meeting**

20. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 31 January 2023 (Tuesday).

21. The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat  
STDC 13/15/15/1

January 2023