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GIBRALTAR

Name of Regulatory Authority: Gibraltar Regulatory Authority (GRA)
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Basis for operation

Legal framework: Gibraltar Regulatory Authority Act 2000

General remit: TV, radio, networks and infrastructures, electronic communications, data protection, satellite coordination and postal services.

Funding mechanisms: Revenue from licensing and fees.

Composition

The GRA is a body corporate.

Number of members: A maximum number of 5 members, two of whom are the Chief Executive Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

Term of office: 5 years for the Chief Executive Officer and, on average, 2 years for independent board members.

Re-appointment possible: Yes

Proposal of members: Any person may propose independent board members

Appointment of members: Chief Minister

Revocation of mandate possible: Yes, based on GRA Act 2000 on grounds of incapacity or misbehaviour

Number of staff: 22

Chief Executive Officer: John Paul Rodriguez

Deputy Chief Executive Officer: -

Broadcasting Division staff: 3

Head of Broadcasting: Peter Hyde

Broadcasting Regulatory Manager: Francis Trenado

Regulatory Officer: Louise Maclaren

Competences

	national	regional	local
Granting of licences:			
terrestrial analogue broadcasters	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
terrestrial digital broadcasters	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
satellite analogue broadcasters	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
satellite digital broadcasters	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
cable analogue broadcasters	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
cable digital broadcasters	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

In the areas where your authority is not competent to grant licences, please specify the authority in charge: **N/A**

Granting of registrations: **N/A**

In the areas where your authority is not competent to grant declarations, please specify the authority in charge: **Government of Gibraltar / Minister for Communications**

Frequency allocation: ✓

Supervision of: private broadcasters	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
public broadcasters	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Handling complaints: ✓

Sanctioning: ✓ issue warning ✓ impose fine ✓ demand to broadcast announcement
 ✓ revoke licence ✓ suspend licence ✓ reduction in the licensing period
 ✓ suspend a programme / broadcast
 other (please specify):

Rule making: ✓ codes rules (please specify):
 other (please specify):

Consultative powers: ✓ please specify the areas covered:
Hold consultations with the Government of Gibraltar and Broadcasters

Power of nomination: please specify:
 (e.g. chairman of PSB) N/A

Monitoring: ✓ programming
 financial performance

others (please specify):

Others: Please specify:

Ensure correct use of radio magnetic spectrum

Please add any information you deem important:

General Information on the media landscape in Gibraltar:

Introduction

Since the introduction of the Broadcasting Act 2012 the Broadcasting Division has been responsible for the granting and enforcement of licences to broadcasters, regulating matters on broadcasting standards, the issuing of codes of practice and encouraging the promotion of media literacy. The Division's forte is providing guidance to consumers, purchasers and other users of the broadcasting services in Gibraltar, including the public service broadcaster with whom the Division mutually cooperates with in an effort to sustain the good working relationship.

At present, Gibraltar has two television broadcasters and two radio broadcasters. The first established television broadcasting service is provided by the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation ("GBC") which also provides one radio network, namely Radio Gibraltar, and is the sole public service broadcaster.

The second television broadcaster currently transmitting from Gibraltar's Digital Terrestrial Television platform is Al-Jazeera Media Network.

The other radio network licensed in Gibraltar is the British Forces Broadcasting Service provided by the Services Sound and Vision Corporation.

Broadcasting Act 2012

In October 2012, the Gibraltar Parliament passed the Broadcasting Act 2012 (the "Act"). The Act transposed into Gibraltar law the Audiovisual Media Services Directive. It also created a licensing regime in relation to broadcasting for the first time in Gibraltar. Licences are required by all radio and television broadcasters which, prior to October 2012, were exempt under the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation Act which this Act repealed.

The Act transferred all regulatory powers to the GRA. These powers had, traditionally, been exercised by the Board of the GBC. As a result, a new Broadcasting Division was created in the GRA which is responsible for: the granting and enforcement of licenses to broadcasters, deal on all regulatory matters especially on broadcasting standards, issue codes of practice, encourage the promotion of media literacy as well as publishing information and advice to consumers, purchasers and other users of broadcasting services in Gibraltar.

The Act goes further than the requirements of the Directives in that it also covers audio transmissions, especially with regards to commercial communications albeit in a less onerous manner.

Digital Broadcasting

Since 2012, Gibraltar has been operating DTT and DAB+ services. Currently, GBC, which is the public service broadcaster, and Al-Jazeera Media Network are transmitting their television services via DVB-T in SD and DVB-T2 in HD. GBC is also offering its radio services on DAB+.

There is great scope for radio and television broadcasters alike to be licensed in Gibraltar following the launch of the digital broadcasting network in 2012 and there is a lot about this network that is yet to be explored by broadcasters. Nonetheless, the Broadcasting Division has been receiving expressions of interest, particularly from overseas business based in the UK who aspire to broadcast their services in Gibraltar. Most enquiries made about our licensing procedures and regulations focus on radio broadcasting services and incline mostly towards the Restricted FM Service Licence that the Authority offers.

Communications Act 2006

The Communications Act 2006 came into effect on the 5th June 2006 and amended in May 2011 to implement the changes in the EU's regulatory package on electronic communications. This Act regulates broadcasting networks, but not the content of broadcasts.

Quarterly Monitoring Exercise

The Broadcasting Division has continued monitoring the public service broadcaster's programmes in order to determine whether the rules contained in the Programme Standards Code, and the Audiovisual Commercial Communications Code are being applied correctly. The Division has adopted a somewhat conciliatory approach whereby we have provided workshops and liaised with the broadcaster to ensure they properly interpret and apply the existing rules.

Since the onset of the quarterly monitoring exercises, the Division has been monitoring all locally produced content by GBC and determined that GBC has benefitted from the guidance, instruction and regulation provided particularly on the topic of product placement and general programme standards.

Media Literacy Awareness Campaign

The Division also started a Media Literacy Awareness Campaign which will be delivered to local schools during this academic year.

By this, the Division aims to expand the notion of media literacy to include different forms of mass communication and popular culture to equip students with the applicable tools and resources to critically analyse the relationship between media and themselves in today's world.

Radio Audience Survey

During the first quarter of the year, the Division conducted a survey to identify the radio listening habits in Gibraltar. Throughout Europe, radio audiences are on the decline, especially amongst teenagers, and the aim of this survey was to gauge whether Gibraltar was following the same trend.

The survey was conducted primarily by face-to-face interviews, at multiple locations and a good representative sample of the adult population participated. However, as one of our aims was to identify the habits of teenagers, the Division sought the assistance of both comprehensive schools (students aged 13 to 18) and a specific set of survey forms were completed by students. At the final count, 733 valid survey forms were collated within the targeted age demographic ranging from 13 to 60+ years.

The Division will shortly be publishing the results of the survey in a report which will be available to download from the GRA's website.

General Awareness Campaign

The Division is always willing to engage with people and organisations to enhance the local broadcaster's ability to deliver local content of a good standard, which meets the needs of viewers and listeners. The Division is proactive in its approach to informing the public about the work undertaken by the team and encourages the local community to use the complaints procedure scheme in the event that a viewer or listener deems something which has been seen/heard on local TV or Radio to be inappropriate or detrimental to minors. By way of informing and raising awareness about the guidance published by the Division, it is possible to educate the general public about what should be expected from local broadcasting services.

In keeping with the current times and the extensive target audience reached on social media platforms, the Division has provided regular updates and general information, on the Authority's Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn accounts. Accompanied by eye-catching illustrations, the topics covered in these social media posts vary from short news bulletins about the Division's activities; information gathered from international events attended by the Division; historical accounts regarding broadcasting services in Gibraltar and facts extracted from our Codes of Practice. The Division encourages the general public to share these social media posts to further extend this information to a wider audience and also, will welcome all genuine enquiries and requests for further information that are yielded as a result.