

**Survey on Press Freedom under the Tsang Administration (2005-12)**

Survey Period: 18/4 - 4/5

Methodology:

- Questionnaires distributed in newsrooms by HKJA staff member and fellow reporters in different media outlets.
- E-Questionnaires sent to HKJA freelance members.
- Hong Kong Press Photographers Association also sent e-questionnaires to their members on behalf of HKJA.

Target: Reporters, Editors, Photographers, Editorial Managements

No. of questionnaires and e-questionnaires distributed: 1,154

No. of questionnaires returned: 663

*There are questions that need not be answered by all respondents in which case the actual number of respondents is indicated within parenthesis after the question.

**In questions that allow respondents to select more than one option, the individual returns percentage will be over 100%

Result :

1. Compared to 1st July, 2005,# the first day of Tsang's administration, do you think Hong Kong enjoys more press freedom now?

	Frequency	Percentage
Obviously less	379	57.2%
A bit less	197	29.7%
Same as on July 1st 2005	41	6.2%
A bit more	14	2.1%
Obviously more	4	0.6%
Don't know/Hard to say	28	4.2%
Total	663	100%

2. If yes, this can be attributed to: (can choose more than one option) (N = 18)

Rank	Reason	Frequency	Percentage
1	More channels of expression (Internet as an example)	9	50%
1	More sources of information	9	50%
3	The industry fighting for more freedom	3	16.7%
3	A more relaxed legal environment	3	16.7%

3. If not, it can be attributed to: (can choose more than one option) (N = 576)

Rank	Reason	Frequency	Percentage
1	Tighter control over flow of information	534	92.7%
2	Self-censorship in the industry	409	71%
3	Interference from Beijing government/Liaison Office	389	67.5%
4	Pressure from business sector and conglomerates	207	35.9%
5	Others	23	4%

4. Do you believe self-censorship now is more serious than at the first day of Tsang administration or less serious?

	Frequency	Percentage
A bit more serious	319	48.1%
Obviously more serious	206	31.1%
Same	54	8.1%
A bit less serious	14	2.1%
Obviously less serious	2	0.3%
Don't know / Hard to tell	68	10.3%
Total	663	100%

5. Have you or your supervisors, practised self-censorship in the past twelve months?

	Frequency	Percentage
No	249	37.6%
Yes	238	35.9%
Don't know / Hard to tell	176	26.5%
Total	663	100%

6. What are the forms of self-censorship practiced by the media? (can choose more than one option) (N = 238)

Rank	Reason	Frequency	Percentage
1	Downplaying issues/information unfavourable to conglomerates that wield strong influence over advertising	96	40.3%
2	Downplaying information unfavourable to the Central Government	88	37%
3	Downplaying issues/information detrimental to the media owners or their interests	82	34.5%
4	Slanting news in favour of a CE candidate	80	33.6%
5	Downplaying issues/information unfavourable to the	68	28.6%

	SAR Government		
6	Slanting news in favour of the SAR Government	56	23.5%

7. What, in your view, is the most serious problem the industry facing during Tsang administration?

Rank	Reason	Frequency	Percentage
1	Depressed wages and benefits	341	51.4%
2	Lower professional quality	206	31.1%
3	Self-censorship	204	30.8%
4	Lack of experienced media workers due to high turnover	199	30%
5	Frivolous news	199	30%
5	Pressures from government/conglomerates	163	24.6%
7	Sensationalism	126	19%
8	High pressure working environment	118	17.8%
9	Others	20	3%

8. Do you agree that Mr. Donald Tsang actively improve press freedom for media?

	Frequency	Percentage
No	570	86%
Yes	5	0.8%
Don't know / Hard to tell	88	13.3%
Total	663	100%

9. In your view, which policy has affected press freedom most during the Tsang administration?

Rank	Reason	Frequency	Percentage
1	Spot news information is controlled by the Police and Fire Services Department	378	57%
2	Releasing more official footages/package stories, fewer news events accessible to reporters	274	41.3%
3	Off the record' briefings increasing tremendously	158	23.8%
4	Proposed legislation on anti-stalking	106	16%
5	Others	49	7.4%

10 . What was the most serious attack on press freedom during the past 7 years?

Rank	Reason	Frequency	Percentage
1	Suppression of press freedom by the police during the visit of Li Keqiang	334	50.4%
2	Blatant infringement of press freedom during CE election period, such as the Liaison Office pressuring HKEJ and Sing Pao altering the content of Lau Yui Sui's column article	229	34.5%
3	Upholding press freedom motion voted down in Legco	70	10.6%
4	AO appointed Director of Broadcast and phone-in programme hosts at RTHK replaced.	57	8.6%
5	Issues arising from ATVs false report of Jiang Zemin's death	41	6.2%
6	Reporters were beaten up in Xinjiang by mainland police	30	4.5%
7	Reporters were arrested and manhandled when they reported the chaotic ticket sales of Beijing Olympics	23	3.5%
8	Others	7	1.1%

Donald Tsang took office on 21st June 2005.