

October 11, 2022

DIRECTIVE

TO: ALL LICENSEES

WHEREAS **Regulation 30(a)** of the **Television and Sound Broadcasting Regulations (hereinafter called “the Regulations”)** provides that, *“No licensee shall permit to be transmitted any matter in contravention of the Laws of Jamaica”*;

AND WHEREAS **Regulation 30(j)** of the Regulations provides that *“No licensee shall permit to be transmitted any matter which is likely to incite violence or criminal activity or lead to a breach of the peace”*;

AND WHEREAS **Regulation 31** of the Regulations provides that the Commission may, from time-to-time, issue to licensees, directives in respect of any matter to which the Act and the Regulations relate;

AND WHEREAS there have been broadcast transmissions of recordings with lyrics that promote, glorify and/or reference criminal behaviour such as scamming, the use of illegal drugs, use of guns and other offensive weapons to perpetrate harmful/illegal actions, and jungle justice;

AND WHEREAS there is currently a proliferation of recordings with lyrics that promote, glorify and/or reference the criminal activity of scamming, through the use of urban slangs and phrases such as “chop di line”, “chop the line”, “chop ‘e line”, “pon ‘e line”, “bang line”, “chop”, “choppins”, “choppa”, “choppa phone”, “banga”, “banga phone”, “burner phone” and “client”;

AND WHEREAS the use of these words/slangs might also have meanings that are unrelated to scamming, however when in connection to making money, wire transfers, acquiring wealth (property, expensive cars, jewellery), and a lavish lifestyle, or used in combination with other words such as “leads, lead list/sheet”, “bank/foreign account”, “food”, “wallet” and “purse”, scamming is very likely to be the connotation;

AND WHEREAS the ‘bleeping’, ‘beeping’, or otherwise editing of problematic language or lyrics will not necessarily conceal the core message or theme of the originally produced content (recordings);

AND WHEREAS the transmission by some licensees of such content on the airwaves to widespread audiences, including children, has been found by the Commission to be in breach of the Regulations and the Children's Code for Programming;

NOW THEREFORE, the Broadcasting Commission HEREBY ISSUES THE FOLLOWING DIRECTIVE, to take effect immediately:

1. There shall be no transmission through **radio or television or cable services** (including music charts), of any **audio or video recording, live song or speech** which promotes and/or glorifies scamming, illegal use or abuse of drugs (e.g. 'Molly'), illegal or harmful use of guns or other offensive weapons, "jungle justice" or any other form of illegal or criminal activity.
2. The broadcast of any edited song which directly or indirectly promotes scamming, illegal use or abuse of drugs, illegal or harmful use of guns or other offensive weapons, "jungle justice" or any form of illegal or criminal activity is strictly prohibited. This includes live editing and original edits (e.g. edits by producer/label) and the use of near-sounding words as substitutes for offensive lyrics, expletives or profanities. To be clear, the broadcast of a sampling of any song which promotes or glorifies scamming, illegal use or abuse of drugs (e.g. 'Molly'), illegal or harmful use of guns or other offensive weapons, "jungle justice" or any other form of illegal or criminal activity is prohibited.
3. Programme managers and station owners or operators are hereby required to take immediate steps to prevent transmission of any recorded material falling into the categories described in paragraphs 1 and 2.
4. Licensees are reminded that in determining suitability for broadcast, they must consider the overall theme/message of the content and not only specific and individual words.

Signed:



Prof. Lloyd Waller
Chairman

Dated this 11th day of October 2022