

**NEWS RELEASE**

**Tuesday, April 12, 2022**

**Contact:**

Telecommunications Market Investigation Division (02-2110-1530, 1531)

**KCC CHAIRMAN HAN SANG-HYUK MEETS WITH GOOGLE REGARDING LAW PROHIBITING FORCING SPECIFIC IN-APP PAYMENT METHODS**

*- “Google’s policy to restrict outlinks may violate the law”-*

*- Request change from Google to reflect the intent of the legislation -*

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 – Korea Communications Commission(KCC) Chairman Han Sang-hyuk met with Wilson White, Senior Director of Public Policy of Google today regarding implementing the legislation to prohibit forcing specific in-app payment methods.

At the meeting, arranged at Google’s request, Google explained the intent of its Google Play payment policy in order to comply with the amended law and its efforts to that end.

Senior Director Wilson White said, “Although Google has made many efforts to comply with Korea’s Telecommunications Business Act so far, we understand that there are still app developers who are not satisfied with Google’s policies. We will communicate even more proactively with the KCC in order to comply with the amended legislation.”

After listening to Google’s explanation, Chairman Han commented, “I acknowledge Google’s efforts to comply with Korea’s law, but it is difficult to say that Google’s measures thus far sufficiently reflect the intent of the legislation. Specifically, if Google restricts outlinks for web payments, thereby in essence forcing in-app payments, this could be seen as a violation of the law.”

Chairman Han added, “If despite the KCC’s determination on this matter, if Google pursues measures to restrict updates for or delete apps using other payment methods, such as web payment outlinks, thereby essentially forcing in-app payments, then the KCC will take measures according to the law.” He added, “I ask Google develop its payment policy in a direction which aligns with the intent of the law.”

Furthermore, regarding the view that Google essentially forces a specific payment method by imposing excessive fees on other types of payment methods, the Chairman added, “Considering Google is a big tech firm with global influence, I ask that it creates real change which members of the app market ecosystem can truly feel.”

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The Korea Communications Commission