

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2016-17**

**Head 160 Radio Television Hong Kong
Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting**

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Programme
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CEDB(CCI)093	3619	KWOK Ka-ki	(1) Radio
CEDB(CCI)094	3620	KWOK Ka-ki	(1) Radio
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CEDB(CCI)096	6617	KWOK Ka-ki	(2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme
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CEDB(CCI)100	0964	LAM Tai-fai	(2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme
CEDB(CCI)101	0791	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	
CEDB(CCI)102	0792	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	
CEDB(CCI)103	0793	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	(1) Radio
CEDB(CCI)104	0797	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	(4) New Media

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Programme
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CEDB(CCI)106	1213	LEE Cheuk-yan	(2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme
CEDB(CCI)107	2179	LEUNG Kwok-hung	
CEDB(CCI)108	2736	MA Fung-kwok	(2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme
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CEDB(CCI)121	5042	SIN Chung-kai	(2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme
CEDB(CCI)122	2275	TANG Ka-piu	(2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme
CEDB(CCI)123	3086	WONG Kwok-hing	(2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme
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EDB285	0965	LAM Tai-fai	(3) School Education Television Programme
EDB662	6618	KWOK Ka-ki	(3) School Education Television Programme

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)082

(Question Serial No. 5428)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

In line with the development of Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) and audio broadcasting, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) plans to provide more output hours of new programmes to the public, with a special focus on the production of DTT. However, the 3 current buildings along Broadcast Drive are no longer sufficient to cope with the staff's need. Therefore, it is necessary to seek more resources and space in order to develop the 24-hour TV and Digital Audio Broadcasting in the future. RTHK's proposal for the construction of the New Broadcasting House (New BH) in Tseung Kwan O was vetoed by pro-establishment camp earlier, thus it will be difficult for the staff to cope with the increasing workload in the future. In this regard, when does the Government plan to re-submit the proposal for the construction of the New BH to the Legislative Council?

How much additional resources and existing resources has RTHK allocated in regard to RTHK's takeover of the analogue television services of Asia Television Limited (ATV), and RTHK's additional output hours of DTT in the coming year? Please provide a breakdown of the genres and output hours of RTHK TV's additional first-runs in the coming year. Is there any plan to provide TV news reports on RTHK TV channels?

What are the arrangements and details of RTHK's takeover of the analogue television services of ATV? How much manpower and expenditure is used with respect to the related transmission?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 187)

Reply:

- (a) The funding application for the construction of the New Broadcasting House (New BH) of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) was not supported by the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) of the Legislative Council (LegCo) in January 2014. Most PWSC Members agreed in principle that there was a need for a New BH but raised serious concern over the cost estimate and scope of the project. RTHK and the

Architectural Services Department have since early 2014 been reviewing the proposal, having regard to the concerns of the PWSC of LegCo over the cost estimate and scope of the New BH Project, with a view to working out the most cost-effective proposal which can address Members' concern.

As the problems encountered during the review process were more complicated than expected, RTHK need more time to complete the review process. RTHK will take forward the New BH Project in accordance with the procedures for implementing Government capital works projects. Upon completion of the review and internal planning, we will follow up on the proposal in accordance with the established mechanism.

- (b) In 2016-17, RTHK will push forward its development of digital terrestrial television (DTT) services by increasing the broadcasting hours of DTT channels. The new expenditures involved are covered by additional recurrent funding (including provision for salaries), which amounts to about \$14.3 million. Regarding the provision of transitional analogue television service, RTHK will arrange for the simulcast of RTHK TV 31 and TV 33 on the 2 analogue channels to be vacated by Asia Television Limited (ATV) after the television programme service licence of ATV expires on 2 April this year. RTHK will not produce another set of programmes for the analogue channels.

In 2016-17, RTHK will produce 1 369 hours of first-run DTT television programmes, which is an increase by 34 hours from 2015-16. The distribution of output by programming nature is listed below:

Distribution of Output by Programming Nature	Hours
Current affairs	227
Special interests group (including elderly, minorities and the underprivileged)	86
Youth and children	201
Arts and culture	208
Civic education	296
Continuing education	253
Mainland affairs	98
Total:	1 369

From 2 April 2016, RTHK will provide 1 video news programme every night on RTHK TV 31 (26 minutes every night from Monday to Friday, and 15 minutes every night on Saturday and Sunday) .

- (c) Regarding the transitional analogue television service, RTHK has awarded the contract to a third party service provider, which will provide the transmission service for the analogue TV broadcast for RTHK after the television programme service licence of ATV expires on 2 April this year. As stated in (b) above, RTHK will then arrange for the simulcast of RTHK TV 31 and TV 33 on the 2 analogue channels to be vacated by ATV. In other words, one of the vacated channels will simulcast the programmes of

RTHK TV 31, and the other will simulcast the English programmes of China Central Television (CCTV)-9 Documentary with RTHK TV 33, and the work is in progress.

Regarding the transitional analogue television service in 2016-17, the expenditure it involves amount to about \$59.4 million, which covers the expenses of the above-mentioned transmission service, expenses for acquisition of related broadcasting equipment and other related expenses. For the provision of such service, RTHK has not acquired any additional staff.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)083

(Question Serial No. 5518)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

What are the estimates for the salaries and allowances of Director of Broadcasting and Deputy Director of Broadcasting for 2016-17?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (Member Question No. 286)

Reply:

The salaries of Director of Broadcasting and Deputy Director of Broadcasting are as follows:

Civil Service Ranks	Notional Annual Mid-Point Salaries
Director of Broadcasting	\$2,683,800
Deputy Director of Broadcasting	\$2,290,800

Regarding allowances, since they depend on the length of service, terms of appointment and other requirements in relation to the civil servants in those posts, and since not all allowances are paid from Head 160 – Radio Television Hong Kong, the information is not available.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)084

(Question Serial No. 3540)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

In recent years, the society's interest in football has been rekindled. Traditionally, radio broadcast has been an effective channel for the public to make contact with Hong Kong football. In this regard, can the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) In the past 3 years, how many live broadcast of local football matches has Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) provided and what was the expenditure involved?
- (b) In 2016-17, in order to further promote Hong Kong football, will RTHK consider increasing the number of live broadcast of local football matches? If so, what are the specific plans and the estimated expenditure? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 271)

Reply:

- (a) In the past 3 years, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) live broadcasted an average of 40 local football matches per year, and the annual expense for the rental of Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) for live audio signal transmission and the hiring of technicians for outdoor live broadcasts was about \$200,000.
- (b) RTHK keeps in close contact with the Hong Kong Football Association and the football clubs. In the event that there are popular matches, RTHK will try to arrange for broadcasting the matches. It is expected that RTHK would live broadcast approximately the same number of matches in 2016-17, and the estimated expenditure of the rental of ISDN for live audio signal transmission and the hiring of technicians for outdoor live broadcasts would be maintained at about \$200,000.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)085

(Question Serial No. 3862)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Would the Government advise the related expenditures, manpower, review mechanism and effectiveness of the Community Involvement Broadcasting Service (CIBS) in 2015; and its projected target(s), related expenditures and manpower in 2016? In addition, will there be any changes on the programme content when the CIBS is continued on a pilot basis in 2016? What measure(s) will be taken to enhance the publicity of the CIBS? What is the estimated expenditure in this regard?

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 348)

Reply:

In 2012, the Legislative Council Finance Committee approved an allocation of \$45 million for setting up a Community Involvement Broadcasting Fund (CIBF) to subsidise public participation in programme production. In 2015-16, the estimated expenditure of CIBF is \$7.2 million.

The Pilot Project for Community Involvement Broadcasting Service (the project) is operated through the internal deployment and shared use of resources within Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK). There is no itemised breakdown of the relevant expenditure.

RTHK has always valued public opinions in regard to the project. From September to November 2014, RTHK conducted a focus group study in order to find out the awareness and opinions of the public and various sectors about the project. The study also provided advice in various aspects on how to improve the quality of the project. The result of the study indicates that the participants generally had positive feedback on the project and considered that the project could involve community members to take part in producing programmes and voice their opinions. The secretariat also invited community members who had programmes successfully produced to participate in opinion surveys on the project. According to the surveys, participants generally considered that the project had helped them

better understand programme production, and it had also achieved the anticipated social gain and enriched their knowledge related to the programme topics.

In 2016-17, RTHK will continue the Community Involvement Broadcasting Service and develop it into an on-going service. The relevant expenditure will be covered by the total expenditure of the Radio Division with no itemised breakdown. RTHK is currently mapping out the future development of the project, including output hours, themes, etc. and RTHK will also strengthen its promotion to the public. The estimated expenditure on promotion for 2016-17 will be about \$3.5 million. The budget will be used to cover advertising on major public transport facilities, mainstream newspapers and publications for ethnic minorities, culture magazines, internet platforms, social media, etc. and the upgrading works of the project's online platform.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)086

(Question Serial No. 3863)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Radio Television Hong Kong launched a trial run for its 3 digital terrestrial television channels in 2014 and introduced new services in 2015. In regard to each of the channels, please inform us of each item of expenditure involved, manpower resources involved and allocation of such, the anticipated number of viewers and plans for future work.

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 349)

Reply:

In 2016-17, the total provision of the TV Division of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) is \$523.7 million, including the provision for the 3 digital terrestrial television (DTT) channels and the transmission of the transitional analogue television service. \$464.3 million of the provision will be used for the programme production of the 3 DTT channels and all the related operation cost. For the effective use of resources, the production equipment and manpower resources for the 3 DTT channels are shared among themselves and not calculated separately.

The staffing establishment of Public Affairs and General Television Programme consists of a total of 383 non-directorate staff, including 204 programme production staff and 179 production supporting staff.

The DTT service provided by RTHK is still in the development stage, and the signal can cover about 80% of the population in Hong Kong. However, according to the Public Opinion Programme at the University of Hong Kong commissioned by RTHK, the results of the telephone interview conducted in January 2016, with respect to the reception of RTHK digital TV signal indicated that, in the 1 063 samples successfully interviewed, 55% responded that they could watch RTHK TV 31, TV 32 and TV 33 at home, and 41% indicated that they had watched RTHK TV 31, TV 32 and TV 33 before.

RTHK is planning to enhance its DTT services. RTHK's DTT network is anticipated to extend to a coverage of about 99% of the local population by early 2019. RTHK is also

preparing to launch a complete 24-hour service on RTHK TV 31 in the future. RTHK's current plan is to gradually increase the production hours of its first-run TV programmes by 215 hours in 5 years, from around 1 335 hours in 2015-16 to 1 550 hours in 2020-21.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)087

(Question Serial No. 3864)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

On the plan for the construction of the New Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O in relation to television services, can the Government provide details on the current work progress, and the estimated expenditures and manpower involved in the planning?

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 350)

Reply:

The funding application for the construction of the New Broadcasting House (New BH) of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) was not supported by the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) of the Legislative Council in January 2014. Most PWSC Members agreed in principle that there was a need for a New BH but had grave concerns over the project estimate and scope. RTHK and the Architectural Services Department have been, since early 2014, conducting thorough review of the project taking into account the concerns of the PWSC Members with a view to working out the most cost-effective proposal while at the same time addressing Members' comments.

Since the issues encountered during the review were more complicated than expected, we need more time to deal with them. We will take forward the New BH Project in accordance with the procedures for implementing Government capital works projects. Upon completion of the review and internal planning, we will follow up on the proposal in accordance with the established mechanism.

The relevant expenditure on the planning of the New BH has been covered by Head 160 - Radio Television Hong Kong without an itemised breakdown.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)088

(Question Serial No. 3865)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Regarding the transmission of programmes on the 2 analogue television channels to be vacated by Asia Television Limited, can the Government provide us with the current work plans and progress, and each item of estimated expenditure involved and manpower resources required as planned?

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 351)

Reply:

Regarding the transitional analogue television service, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has awarded the contract to a third party service provider, which will provide the transmission service for the analogue TV broadcast for RTHK after the television programme service licence of Asia Television Limited (ATV) expires on 2 April this year. At that time, RTHK will arrange for the programmes of RTHK TV 31 and RTHK TV 33 on the digital terrestrial television channels to be simulcast respectively on the 2 analogue TV channels vacated by ATV. In other words, one of the vacated channels will simulcast the programmes of RTHK TV 31, while the other one will simulcast the English programmes of China Central Television (CCTV)-9 Documentary broadcast on RTHK TV 33. The works are proceeding on schedule.

In 2016-17, with respect to the transitional analogue television service, the expenditure involved is approximately \$59.4 million, including the fees of the aforementioned transmission service, the expenditure for the installation of related broadcasting equipment, and other relevant expenditure. Manpower will not be increased in this regard.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)089

(Question Serial No. 2564)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Under this programme, please inform the Committee of the following:

- (a) What are the operational expenses, staff establishment and estimated annual salary expenditure for Channel 7 in 2016-17?
- (b) What are the numbers of listeners and audience ratings of Channel 7 in 2015-16?
- (c) What are the operational expenses, staff establishment and estimated annual salary expenditure for DAB (Digital Audio Broadcasting) 31 in 2016-17?
- (d) What are the numbers of audience and audience ratings of DAB-31 in 2015-16?
- (e) What are the operational expenses, staff establishment and estimated annual salary expenditure for DAB-32 in 2016-17?
- (f) What are the numbers of audience and audience ratings of DAB-32 in 2015-16?

Asked by: Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip (Member Question No. 63)

Reply:

Reply:

(a), (c) and (e)

In 2016-17, the estimates of operational expenses (including salaries) of the Radio Division of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) are \$385 million, with a staff establishment of 291. Regarding individual channels, no breakdown of expenditure of such is available.

- (b) According to a listenership survey conducted in November 2015, the number of listeners who had listened to Channel 7 in the past 7 days was 267 000, with a listenership of 4%.
- (d) According to a survey conducted by RTHK between August and September 2015, of the listeners who had listened to DAB in the past 7 days and were certain of which DAB channel they were listening, the listenership of RTHK DAB 31 was 12.2%.
- (f) We do not have information on the number of listeners of RTHK DAB 32 of 2016-17. According to the survey conducted by RTHK between August and September 2015, of the listeners who had listened to DAB in the past 7 days and were certain of which DAB channel they were listening, the listenership of RTHK DAB 32 was 2.1%.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)090

(Question Serial No. 5618)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

So far only one digital terrestrial television channel provides news programmes; regarding this, please inform us of whether Radio Television Hong Kong will increase its news hours in order to keep viewers informed of the latest information.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che (Member Question No. 797)

Reply:

Regarding news programmes, from 2 April 2016, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will provide 1 video news programme every night on RTHK TV 31 (26 minutes every night from Monday to Friday, and 15 minutes every night on Saturday and Sunday).

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)091

(Question Serial No. 2514)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

- (a) According to the Estimates, the amount under “cost per hour” of production is \$276,200 for 2014-15, \$311,400 for 2015-16, and even \$328,700 for 2016-17, which is quite an increase. Does the Government know the cost of production per hour of other privately-owned TV stations? Compared with them, is the cost of production per hour of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) reasonable, or on the high side?
- (b) How many complaints from the public regarding in-house productions has RTHK received in the past 3 years? How many of these complaints are about programmes of current and public affairs? What are the main aspects of the contents of these complaints?
- (c) What measures does RTHK currently have to ensure that the current and public affairs programmes produced, covered or hosted by frontline staff all abide within the principles of fairness and impartiality, with no exercising of special favour for the speech, stance and party identity of any one side, nor with launching of constant attack on the speech, stance and party of any one side?

Asked by: Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun (Member Question No. 42)

Reply:

- (a) The “cost per hour” has increased for 2016-17, which is due to the increase in operational expenses. The reasons for such increase in expenses include: overall civil service pay adjustment, increase in staffing establishment, the expenses related to the enhancement of digital terrestrial television services, etc. Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) does not have any information about the production costs of other privately-owned TV stations; moreover, as RTHK’s mode and principles of operation are different from those of the local privately-owned TV stations, it is not appropriate to compare RTHK’s production costs with theirs directly.

- (b) In the past 3 years, a total of 19 complaints against the programmes of RTHK were substantiated by the Office of the Communications Authority; 5 of them were related to current and public affairs programmes. The subject matter of the complaints was about accuracy of contents (3), comprehensiveness of presentation of viewpoints (1), and suitability of transmission in family viewing time (1).
- (c) As a public broadcaster, RTHK requires its production staff to observe public purposes set out in the Charter of Radio Television Hong Kong as production principles, including “to provide an open platform for the free exchange of views without fear or favour”; at the same time, every programme staff member must observe the criteria as set out in “Producers’ Guidelines” to produce programmes of impartial contents in a professional and impartial manner.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)092

(Question Serial No. 1981)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

In 2016-2017, the cost per hour of a Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) programme is estimated at \$328,700, which is higher than the revised estimate for 2015-16. Please inform this Committee of the following

- (a) The reasons for the increase in cost;
- (b) Although the cost of a programme has increased, the average viewership of prime-time programmes of the two free television broadcasters has dropped, what are the reasons?
- (c) Has RTHK conducted surveys on the average station sharing percentage of the RTHK programmes on RTHK 31? If so, please list the breakdown by programme names. If not, why did RTHK not conduct such surveys? Will RTHK conduct such surveys in the future?

Asked by: Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai (Member Question No. 33)

Reply:

- (a) The “cost per hour” has increased for 2016-17, which is due to the increase in operational expenses. The reasons for such increase in expenses include: overall adjustment in civil service pay, increase in staffing establishment, the expenses related to the enhancement of digital terrestrial television (DTT) services, etc.
- (b) The TV rating surveys were provided by industry-wide professional market research study companies. The research reports indicate that generally speaking, the number of people watching television is constantly decreasing in Hong Kong.
- (c) The DTT service provided by Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) is still in the development stage, and the signal can cover about 80% of the population in Hong Kong. However, according to the Public Opinion Programme at the University of Hong Kong commissioned by RTHK, the results of the telephone interview conducted

in January 2016, with respect to the reception of RTHK digital TV signal indicated that, in the 1 063 samples successfully interviewed, 55% responded that they could watch RTHK TV 31, TV 32 and TV 33 at home, and 41% indicated that they had watched RTHK TV 31, TV 32 and TV 33 before. In addition, RTHK has conducted a “Television Programmes Appreciation Index Survey” on its DTT programmes, so as to reflect the quality and acceptability of RTHK television programmes in a more accurate and effective way. According to the survey in 2015, RTHK programmes scored the highest amongst all local stations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)093

(Question Serial No. 3619)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

How will the Government make use of the budget provision to ensure that the news production of Radio Television Hong Kong is independent and free from undue influences?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 295)

Reply:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) is the public service broadcaster in Hong Kong. According to the "Charter of RTHK", the public purposes and mission of RTHK include providing an open platform for the free exchange of views without fear or favour. The Charter also stipulates that RTHK is editorially independent, the editorial principles adhered by RTHK include being impartial in the views it reflects, and even-handed with all those who seek to express their views via the public service broadcasting platform; and being immune from commercial, political and/or other influences.

The programme production and editorial principles upheld by RTHK have no connection to the budget provision.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)094

(Question Serial No. 3620)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Last year, several programmes, of which the hosts/hostesses had participated in the umbrella movement, were discontinued, allegedly because of political pressure, so as to de-politicise the programmes. How will Radio Television Hong Kong make use of the budget provisions to safeguard the programmes' diversified voices and views?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 296)

Reply:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) is the public service broadcaster in Hong Kong. According to the "Charter of RTHK", the public purposes and mission of RTHK include providing an open platform for the free exchange of views without fear or favour. The Charter also stipulates that RTHK is editorially independent, the editorial principles adhered by RTHK include being impartial in the views it reflects, and even-handed with all those who seek to express their views via the public service broadcasting platform; and being immune from commercial, political and/or other influences.

The programme production and editorial principles upheld by RTHK have no connection to the budget provision.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)095

(Question Serial No. 6616)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The provision for 2016-17 is 10.9% higher than the original estimate for 2015-16, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 293)

Reply:

The provision for 2016-17 is 10.9% higher than the original estimate for 2015-16. It is mainly due to enhancement of the Community Involvement Broadcasting Service, increase in operating expenses, filling of vacancies, increase in staffing establishment and overall civil service pay adjustment.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)096

(Question Serial No. 6617)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

After Radio Television Hong Kong's takeover of the Asia Television Limited's analogue channels, what will be the additional expenditure involved? How many output hours in total will be provided every week after the takeover?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 297)

Reply:

Regarding the transitional analogue television service, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has awarded the contract to a third party service provider, which will provide the transmission service for the analogue TV broadcast for RTHK after the television programme service licence of Asia Television Limited (ATV) expires on 2 April this year. At that time, RTHK will arrange for the programmes of RTHK TV 31 and RTHK TV 33 on the digital terrestrial television channels to be simulcast respectively on the 2 analogue TV channels vacated by ATV. In other words, one of the vacated channels will simulcast the programmes of RTHK TV 31, while the other one will simulcast the English programmes of China Central Television (CCTV)-9 Documentary broadcast on RTHK TV 33. The works are proceeding on schedule. The output hours of programmes provided every week on RTHK TV 31 and RTHK TV 33 from 2 April 2016 will be 133 hours and 168 hours respectively.

In 2016-17, with respect to the transitional analogue television service, the expenditure involved is approximately \$59.4 million, including the fees of the aforementioned transmission service, the expenditure for the installation of related broadcasting equipment, and other relevant expenditure. Manpower will not be increased in this regard.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)097

(Question Serial No. 6619)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

On the planning of the construction of the New Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O, what is the current work progress? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 300)

Reply:

The funding application for the construction of the New Broadcasting House (New BH) of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) was not supported by the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) of the Legislative Council in January 2014. Most PWSC Members agreed in principle that there was a need for a New BH but had grave concerns over the project estimate and scope. RTHK and the Architectural Services Department have been, since early 2014, conducting thorough review of the project, taking into account the concerns of the PWSC Members with a view to working out the most cost-effective proposal while at the same time addressing Members' comments.

Since the issues encountered during the review were more complicated than expected, we need more time to deal with them. We will take forward the New BH Project in accordance with the procedures for implementing Government capital works projects. Upon completion of the review and internal planning, we will follow up on the proposal in accordance with the established mechanism. The relevant expenditure on the planning of the New BH has been covered by Head 160 - Radio Television Hong Kong without an itemised breakdown.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)098

(Question Serial No. 6620)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) New Media

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The provision for 2016-17 is 19.7% higher than the original estimate for 2015-16, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 302)

Reply:

The provision for 2016-17 is 19.7% higher than the original estimate for 2015-16. It is mainly due to the overall civil service pay adjustment, filling of vacancies and increase in operational expenses.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)099

(Question Serial No. 0394)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

In 2016-17, Radio Television Hong Kong will continue to expand its services, including strengthening promotion to attract more applicants for the Community Involvement Broadcasting Service (CIBS); continuing to produce new programmes for Digital Audio Broadcast (DAB) channels and promoting the awareness of DAB broadcasts; producing programmes relating to the 2016 Olympics to be held in Brazil; introducing oral history programmes to document the cultural heritage of local culture and creative industries, etc. In this regard, would the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) How many additional civil service staff will the Government recruit in 2016-17? Please give a breakdown by grade and rank. What is the increase over that of 2015-16? How much expenditure will be involved?
- (b) How many additional non-civil service contract staff will the Government recruit in 2016-17? Please give a breakdown by grade and rank. What is the increase over that of 2015-16? How much expenditure will be involved?

Asked by: Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung (Member Question No. 46)

Reply:

- (a) In 2016-17, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will have an increase of 19 non-directorate posts. Among the 19 posts to be created, 10 are additional posts while the remaining 9 are newly created posts to replace corresponding non-civil service contract (NCSC) positions which have a long-term need. The 10 additional posts to be created in 2016-17 represent an increase of 10 posts over that in 2015-16 (no additional post). The cost of these posts, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, is about \$5.23 million. The breakdown of the 10 posts by rank is as follows:

Ranks	Number of Additional Posts
Senior Programme Officer	1

Programme Officer	2
Assistant Programme Officer	7
Total	10

For the 9 Civil Service posts to be converted from NCSC positions, they represent an increase of 6 posts over that in 2015-16 (3 posts). The cost of these posts, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, is about \$3.79 million. The breakdown of the 9 posts by rank is as follows:

Ranks	Number of Additional Posts
Senior Programme Officer	1
Assistant Programme Officer	4
Senior Technical Officer	1
Supplies Supervisor II	1
Supplies Assistant	1
Assistant Clerical Officer	1
Total	9

- (b) In 2016-17, depending on operational needs, RTHK will employ NCSC staff and, where necessary, re-deploy internal resources to meet the requirement.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)100

(Question Serial No. 0964)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

In 2016-17, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will proceed with transmission of programmes on the two analogue TV channels to be vacated by Asia Television Limited in April 2016. Given that the total hours of output of RTHK will reach 34 700 hours in the coming year, doubling the 17 000 hours in 2015-16, what are the transitional arrangements, estimated expenditure and manpower; and are they adequate for handling the additional workload?

Asked by: Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai (Member Question No. 16)

Reply:

Regarding the transitional analogue television service, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has awarded the contract to a third party service provider, which will provide the transmission service for the analogue TV broadcast for RTHK after the television programme service licence of Asia Television Limited (ATV) expires on 2 April this year. At that time, RTHK will arrange for the programmes of RTHK TV 31 and RTHK TV 33 on the digital terrestrial television channels to be simulcast respectively on the 2 analogue TV channels vacated by ATV. In other words, one of the vacated channels will simulcast the programmes of RTHK TV 31, while the other one will simulcast the English programmes of China Central Television (CCTV)-9 Documentary broadcast on RTHK TV 33. The works are proceeding on schedule.

In 2016-17, with respect to the transitional analogue television service, the expenditure involved is approximately \$59.4 million, including the fees of the aforementioned transmission service, the expenditure for the installation of related broadcasting equipment, and other relevant expenditure. Manpower will not be increased in this regard.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)101

(Question Serial No. 0791)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Among the staff of Radio Television Hong Kong, what are the respective numbers, percentages and emoluments of civil servants (CS) and non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff? Please advise the numbers of NCSC staff by post. Among the staff recruited this year, what are the respective numbers of CS and NCSC staff? What are the numbers of staff employed by internal recruitment and open recruitment respectively? What is the distribution of such posts by rank and what are the remuneration packages?

Asked by: Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing (Member Question No. 9)

Reply:

As at 31 December 2015, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) had a total strength of 890 staff, including 638 civil servants (CS) (71.7% of the total staff) and 245 non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff (27.5% of the total staff). The remaining 7 are staff engaged under departmental contracts in the past.

The salaries of CS are as follows:

Civil Service Ranks		Salaries of the Ranks	Number of Staff
Programme Officer Grade:	Director of Broadcasting	\$217,150-\$223,650	1
	Deputy Director of Broadcasting	\$180,200-\$196,700	1
	Assistant Director of Broadcasting	\$154,950-\$169,450	1
	Controller (Broadcasting	\$130,500-\$142,750	2

Civil Service Ranks	Salaries of the Ranks	Number of Staff
Services)		
Chief Programme Officer	\$101,620-\$117,080	12
Principal Programme Officer	\$80,990-\$95,215	27
Senior Programme Officer	\$63,095-\$77,650	57
Programme Officer	\$49,645-\$62,235	146
Assistant Programme Officer	\$25,505-\$47,235	190
Programme Assistant	\$13,120-\$24,280	22
Ranks in other grades:	\$11,575-\$196,700	179
Total		638

The salaries of NCSC staff are as follows:

NCSC Positions' Comparable Civil Service Ranks	Salaries	Number of Staff
Programme Officer Grade: Principal Programme Officer	\$88,125	2
Senior Programme Officer	\$52,180-\$64,745	7
Programme Officer	\$32,560-\$51,805	22
Assistant Programme Officer	\$10,500-\$31,020	123
Programme Assistant	\$11,575-\$17,995	10
Ranks in other grades:	\$10,885-\$74,210	81
Total		245

As at 31 December 2015, a total of 53 CS were recruited. Among them, 24 were former NCSC staff of RTHK. The ranks and salaries of the 53 CS are as follows:

Civil Service Ranks	Salaries of the	Number
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	Ranks	of Staff
Programme Officer Grade: Senior Programme Officer	\$63,095-\$77,650	1
Programme Officer	\$49,645-\$62,235	14
Assistant Programme Officer	\$25,505-\$47,235	23
Programme Assistant	\$13,120-\$24,280	7
Ranks in other grades:	\$17,995-\$95,215	8
Total		53

Meanwhile, a total of 62 persons were recruited as NCSC staff. Their comparable civil service ranks and salaries are as follows:

NCSC Positions' Comparable Civil Service Ranks	Salaries	Number of Staff
Programme Officer Grade: Senior Programme Officer	\$63,095-\$64,745	2
Programme Officer	\$32,560-\$37,590	8
Assistant Programme Officer	\$10,500-\$20,305	26
Programme Assistant	\$11,575	2
Ranks in other grades:	\$10,885-\$67,745	24
Total		62

When determining the pay level of NCSC staff, RTHK would follow the guidelines of the Civil Service Bureau and take into consideration the prevailing employment market, recruitment situation of relevant job categories and pay level of newly recruited civil servants of comparable civil service ranks. These factors may change from time to time, and the experiences as well as qualifications required for individual NCSC positions may differ. Hence, the salaries of serving and newly recruited NCSC staff may not be the same. However, RTHK would take into account the principle of internal parity when considering the offer of higher pay level to new NCSC staff of the same rank.

Furthermore, RTHK would regularly review the pay of serving NCSC staff under the established mechanism. As some of the serving NCSC staff have longer service in RTHK, their salaries will be higher than the newly recruited NCSC staff.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)102

(Question Serial No. 0792)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Please list the estimate and work for Radio Television Hong Kong Board of Advisors in 2015-16. What are the work plans of the Board in 2016-17? Is there any plan of opening the meetings of the Board to the public so as to enhance their transparency?

Asked by: Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing (Member Question No. 10)

Reply:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has been providing secretariat support service to the RTHK Board of Advisors (the Board) through internal deployment of staff, and RTHK has no separate estimate for the Board. The major works of the Board in 2015-16 are the studies and discussions of RTHK in terms of the "Community Involvement Broadcasting Service", the development of digital terrestrial television services, interaction and participation of the youth, culture and history programmes, acquired programmes, the development of new media, etc.

In 2016-17, the Board will continue its work in accordance with the "RTHK Charter".

Agendas, discussion papers, minutes of meetings and annual reports of the Board are all uploaded onto the RTHK website to inform the public about its work. The Board has no plan of opening up its meetings.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)103

(Question Serial No. 0793)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

In regard to the pilot project of the Community Involvement Broadcasting Service (CIBS), please inform the Committee of the following:

- (a) How many applicants have applied for the CIBS since its launch? How many successful applicants are there among them? Among the successful applicants, how many of them are ethnic minorities? What are the details?
- (b) Has the Government received any comments from the participants on the CIBS? What are the details?
- (c) The Government has indicated that it would strengthen the promotion, what is the estimated expenditure concerned? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing (Member Question No. 11)

Reply:

- (a) Since the launch of the pilot project of the Community Involvement Broadcasting Service (CIBS), we received a total of 705 applications from the first to the seventh round. After the selection process of the first to the sixth round, applications from a total of 142 groups and 43 individuals were successful (the selection process for the seventh round was carried out on 19 and 20 March). From the first to the seventh round, we received a total of 101 applications under the theme of "ethnic minorities". 46 applications under this category were successful in the first to the sixth round selection. We do not analyse the ethnicity of applicants whether they are groups or individuals.
- (b) Radio Television Hong Kong has always valued the opinions of participants on the CIBS. We have therefore invited participants to complete and return the opinion surveys on CIBS after the broadcast of each programme, with a view to understanding their opinions about CIBS. According to the surveys, participants generally

considered that CIBS had helped them better understand radio programme production, and it had also achieved the anticipated social gain and enriched their knowledge related to the programme topics.

Moreover, starting from the end of February 2016, successful applicants can also contact the secretariat through the online platform of CIBS to voice their opinions.

- (c) The estimated expenditure on promotion for 2016-17 will be about \$3.5 million. The budget will be used to cover advertising on major public transport facilities, mainstream newspapers and publications for ethnic minorities, culture magazines, internet platforms, social media, etc. The budget will also cover additional briefing sessions for the public and large-scale outreaching activities. In addition, the online platform of CIBS will be upgraded in line with the CIBS being established as an on-going service, so as to accord with sustainable development.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)104

(Question Serial No. 0797)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (4) New Media

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

What was the download rate of RTHK News, the new mobile application, in the past year? Has any feedback from users been received? If so, what are the details? Regarding this application, what new initiatives is the Government going to implement in 2016-17? What are the estimated expenditures?

Asked by: Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing (Member Question No. 16)

Reply:

- (a) The mobile application RTHK News was launched on 24 August 2015. As at 29 February 2016, it has been downloaded for 25 500 times in total.
- (b) Ever since the launch of the mobile application “RTHK News”, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has received feedback and they are in general positive and supportive.
- (c) We are planning to introduce live video broadcast functions on the mobile application RTHK News in 2016-17 and the estimated expenditure is \$100,000.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)105

(Question Serial No. 0804)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

In paragraph 148 of the 2015-16 Budget Speech, the Financial Secretary mentioned “I asked all policy bureaux to achieve more efficient use of resources through re-engineering and re-prioritising. I have also launched the ‘0-1-1’ envelope savings programme to reduce operating expenditure by a total of two per cent over the next three financial years. Resources saved will be re-allocated for new services.” Please inform this Committee of how Radio Television Hong Kong will implement the “0-1-1” envelope savings programme in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18, the services affected and the details of the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing (Member Question No. 25)

Reply:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will re-engineer and re-prioritise our work to achieve more efficient use of resources. Without affecting our provision of information, education and entertainment broadcast programmes to the public, we will reduce operating expenditure to meet the objectives of the “0-1-1” envelope savings. The reprioritisation and re-engineering measures that we will adopt are as follows:

- (a) installation of new filming equipment which can allow more efficient processing of lighting and audio arrangements, so as to reduce some manpower requirements through advanced technology;
- (b) installation of virtual set, so as to reduce the time, labour and materials for construction of sets, thereby enhancing the efficiency of studio shooting;
- (c) speeding up the migration to file-based production to streamline workflow, so as to reduce the expenses for the post-production of final assembly of programmes; and
- (d) rationalisation of publicity plans to reduce programme publicity budget.

In 2016-17, the total expenditure of RTHK is estimated at \$978 million, which is an increase of \$155 million (18.9%) from the original estimates in 2015-16. This reflects that part of the new resources freed from the “0-1-1” envelope savings by the Government will be re-allocated to RTHK to be used for enhancing the digital terrestrial television service of RTHK, putting forward the transmission of programmes through the 2 analogue TV channels to be vacated by Asia Television Limited, and developing the Community Involvement Broadcasting Service into an on-going service, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)106

(Question Serial No. 1213)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (603) Plant, Vehicles and Equipment

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Please describe the reasons for and details of Item 899 "Production equipment for enhancement of Digital Terrestrial Television service" set up under Subhead 603, its estimated expenditures in 2016-17, and the estimated cash flow in each following financial year.

Asked by: Hon LEE Cheuk-yan (Member Question No. 24)

Reply:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will enhance its digital terrestrial television (DTT) service. Upon completion of the building of 22 DTT fill-in stations, RTHK's network coverage will expand and the number of households receiving its programmes will increase. When the establishment is completed in the first quarter of 2019, RTHK's DTT signals are expected to be able to cover about 99% of Hong Kong's population. RTHK also plans to increase gradually its output of first-run TV programmes from about 1 335 hours in 2015-16 by about 215 hours to 1 550 in 2020-21, representing an increase of 16.1%.

To cater for the increase in output hours of TV programmes in the coming years, additional production equipment and system are required to be procured for the processing and production of additional TV programmes to be acquired and commissioned. These include additional production workstations and servers with the required licenses, file-based quality checking system, near-line storage system and network equipment. The additional production equipment and system will be used to provide quality assurance for those additional acquired and commissioned TV programmes to ensure that they meet the current technical and programme standards promulgated by the regulatory authority.

The estimated cost of production equipment and system is \$15.53 million which would be reflected in the budget estimates of the relevant years, with the breakdown as follows -

	\$ million
(a) Production workstations, servers, accessories and licenses	6.19
(b) File-based Quality Checking (QC) System	5.13
(c) Near-line storage system and network equipment	2.21
(d) Hardware and software for programme development on new media platform	0.50
(e) Contingency	1.50
Total	<u>15.53</u>

The estimated cash flow requirement is as follows –

Year	\$ million
2016-17	10.87
2017-18	3.11
2018-19	<u>1.55</u>
Total	<u>15.53</u>

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)107

(Question Serial No. 2179)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Please give a breakdown of the estimated number of staff, annual emoluments, housing allowances and the expenses on visits and entertainment pertaining to the following posts in Radio Television Hong Kong in 2016-17:

Director of Broadcasting
Senior Personal Secretary to Director of Broadcasting
Deputy Director of Broadcasting
Departmental Secretary
Personal Secretary I
Chief Executive Officer
Senior Engineer
Engineer
Senior Technical Officer
Technical Officer
Senior Executive Officer
Executive Officer
Programme Officer
Senior Clerical Officer
Clerical Officer
Supplies Officer
Assistant Supplies Officer
Supplies Supervisor I
Head of News and Current Affairs
News Manager
Deputy Head/Chief Assignment Editor
Assistant Chief Assignment Editor
Assignment Editor
Deputy Head/Multi-media Chief Editor
Multi-media Assistant Chief Editor
Principal Sub-editor

Assistant Managing Editor
 Deputy Head/Managing Editor
 Head/Radio Development and Culture & Education Unit
 Deputy Head/Radio Development and Culture & Education Unit
 Producer
 Head of Programme Service
 Executive Producer
 Deputy Head of Programme Service
 Producer
 Head of Corporate Development Unit
 Head of Programme & Content Management
 Business Development Officer
 Head of Business Development
 Senior Programme Officer
 Programme Officer
 Programme Officer/Record Library
 Principal Programme Officer
 Senior Programme Officer
 Cameraman
 Senior Editor
 Editor
 Senior Graphic Designer
 Graphic Designer
 Senior Animation Designer
 Animation Designer

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung (Member Question No. 2036)

Reply:

The salaries of the staff of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), including civil servants (CS), non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff and departmental contract staff, are determined by their respective civil service ranks or comparable civil service ranks. As at 31 December 2015, RTHK had a total strength of 890 staff, including 638 CS staff, 245 NCSC staff and 7 staff engaged under departmental contracts in the past.

The salaries of CS staff are as follows:

Civil Service Ranks	Notional Annual Mid-Point Salaries	Number of Staff
Programme Officer Grade: Director of Broadcasting	\$2,683,800	1
Deputy Director of Broadcasting	\$2,290,800	1
Assistant Director of Broadcasting	\$1,973,400	1
Controller (Broadcasting Services)	\$1,663,200	2
Chief Programme Officer	\$1,309,080	12
Principal Programme Officer	\$1,057,500	27
Senior Programme Officer	\$851,460	57
Programme Officer	\$681,240	146
Assistant Programme Officer	\$430,680	190
Programme Assistant	\$229,920	22

Civil Service Ranks	Notional Annual Mid-Point Salaries	Number of Staff
Ranks in other grades:	\$167,640 - \$2,290,800	179
Total		638

The salaries of NCSC staff are as follows:

NCSC Positions Comparable to Civil Service Ranks	Annual Salaries	Number of Staff
Programme Officer Grade: Principal Programme Officer	around \$1,057,500	2
Senior Programme Officer	around \$626,160 - \$776,940	7
Programme Officer	around \$390,720 - \$621,660	22
Assistant Programme Officer	around \$126,000 - \$372,240	123
Programme Assistant	around \$138,900 - \$215,940	10
Ranks in other grades:	around \$130,620 - \$890,520	81
Total		245

The salaries of the staff engaged under departmental contracts in the past are as follows:

Comparable Civil Service Ranks	Annual Salaries	Number of Staff
Programme Officer Grade: Assistant Programme Officer	around \$391,000 - \$495,000	5
Programme Assistant	around \$230,000 - \$275,000	2
Total		7

When determining the pay level of NCSC staff, RTHK would follow the guidelines of the Civil Service Bureau and take into consideration the prevailing employment market, recruitment situation of relevant job categories and pay level of newly recruited civil servants of comparable civil service ranks. These factors may change from time to time, and the experiences as well as qualifications required for individual NCSC positions may also differ. Hence, the salaries of serving and newly recruited NCSC staff may not be the same. However, RTHK would take into account the principle of internal parity when considering the offer of higher pay level to new NCSC staff of the same rank. Furthermore, RTHK would regularly review the pay of serving NCSC staff under the established mechanism. As some of the serving NCSC staff have longer service in RTHK, their salaries will be higher than the newly recruited NCSC staff.

Housing allowances for CS staff of RTHK are not paid from Head 160 – RTHK.

In 2016-17, RTHK staff will undertake duty visits on the basis of operational need. At this stage, there are no definite plans for such visits. As regards official entertainment, the estimated expenditure for 2016-17 is \$50,000.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)108

(Question Serial No. 2736)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

- (a) In the past year, what was the average viewership of the digital terrestrial television (DTT) channels of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)? What measures are there to market and promote RTHK DTT channels and boost viewership?
- (b) In the past year, how many arts and culture TV programmes were produced by RTHK? How many hours of such programmes were aired? What was the number of viewers? What were the expenditures and staffing establishment involved?
- (c) In the past year, how many sports TV programmes were produced by RTHK? How many hours of such programmes were aired? What was the number of viewers? What were the expenditures and staffing establishment involved?
- (d) In the coming year, how many arts and culture, and sports TV programmes does RTHK plan to produce respectively? What are the details? What are the expenditures and staffing establishment involved?
- (e) In the past year, how many TV programmes were acquired by RTHK? How many hours of such programmes were involved? What were the expenditures involved? Among the acquired programmes, how many of them are produced locally? How many are produced overseas or in the Mainland? What were the expenditures involved in the acquired programmes produced locally?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. 36)

Reply:

- (a) The digital terrestrial television (DTT) service provided by Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) is still in the development stage, and the signal can cover about 80% of the population in Hong Kong. According to the Public Opinion Programme at the University of Hong Kong commissioned by RTHK, the results of the telephone interview conducted in January 2016, with respect to the reception of RTHK digital

TV signal indicated that, in the 1 063 samples successfully interviewed, 55% responded that they could watch RTHK TV 31, TV 32 and TV 33 at home, and 41% indicated that they had watched RTHK TV 31, TV 32 and TV 33 before.

In addition, RTHK has conducted a “Television Programme Appreciation Index Survey” on its DTT programmes, so as to reflect the quality and acceptability of RTHK programmes in a more accurate and effective way. According to the survey in 2015, RTHK programmes scored the highest amongst local stations.

Regarding the promotion and publicity of the RTHK DTT channels, RTHK has been maintaining contact since July 2013 with property management companies, property management offices, Owners’ Corporations, antenna maintenance contractors, etc. to introduce DTT services. Briefing sessions are also held to promote antenna upgrading works. Subsequently, we have also contacted major estate management companies on a regular basis to enquire the work progress and promote the ways to receive DTT services.

Besides private properties, RTHK also contacted the Housing Department (HD) since September 2013 for upgrading the Communal Aerial Broadcast Distribution (CABD) systems in public housing estates. With the staunch support of HD, the upgrading works of the CABD systems in public rental housing estates under the management of HD within the signal coverage area have been substantially completed and RTHK DTT reception is available.

To address the problem of former and existing subscribers of Hong Kong Cable Television Limited (Cable TV) who could not receive RTHK TV channels via Cable TV’s CABD even after upgrading of the public antennae, RTHK has worked with Cable TV to transmit RTHK’s DTT signals through its transmission system in individual residential estates via DTT signals interconnection. With completion of the works, most of Cable TV’s subscribers of those residential estates are able to watch RTHK’s 3 DTT channels.

In addition, RTHK operates a telephone hotline and an email services for the exclusive purpose of answering all sorts of enquiries from the public about reception of RTHK DTT channels. Publicity methods such as press conferences; radio and TV promotional trailers/videos; advertisements in newspapers, on MTR platforms and bus bodies; campaigns to approach the community such as “31 Red Ball” Project, roving exhibitions, etc. are adopted to promote the RTHK TV channels and the ways to receive DTT services. A Channel Tuning Service Team was set up by RTHK in August 2015. The team targets to visit 2 public housing estates on 4 days every month, answering the public’s enquiries relating to the proper reception of RTHK’s DTT channels as well as providing door-to-door tuning service. In 2016-17, we will continue to promote RTHK TV channels and the ways to receive DTT services through different means with a view to allowing more people to watch RTHK TV channels.

- (b) In 2015-16, RTHK has produced 1 335 hours of TV programmes, within which arts and culture programmes account for around 203 hours. Prime-time programmes

broadcast on Asia Television Limited (ATV) has an average viewership of 61 000; and for those broadcast on Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB), the average viewership reaches 610 436. RTHK does not formulate separate budget and staff establishment for arts and culture programmes.

- (c) In 2015-16, sports and health programmes account for around 38.5 hours. Prime-time programmes broadcast on ATV has an average viewership of 61 000; and for those broadcast on TVB, the average viewership reaches 610 436. RTHK does not formulate separate budget and staff establishment for sports and health programmes.
- (d) In the coming year, the ratio of arts and culture, and sports and health programmes to be produced by RTHK will be similar to that in 2015-16.
- (e) In 2015-16, RTHK has acquired 536 programmes which account for around 252 hours. The cost and production expenditure of acquired programmes are on average \$118,100 per hour.

With regard to the selection of acquired programmes, it is based on whether such programmes contain the creativity, production standard and content that correspond to RTHK's mission as a public service broadcaster, which is, endeavouring in collecting and covering news and information, popularisation of science, arts and culture and children's programmes in areas not adequately met by commercial broadcasters.

Based on the aforementioned mission, RTHK's current acquired programmes come from the Mainland and around the world, with countries and regions including U.K., France, Japan, U.S.A., Germany, South America, Australia, the Netherlands, Finland, Canada, Sweden, Norway, India, South Korea, etc., with a view to widening the audience's horizon.

In 2015-16, RTHK has not acquired any programmes produced locally. However, RTHK has been providing platforms for new local producers through the commissioning of TV programmes, so that their works, which stretch from documentary, drama to animation, can be broadcast on RTHK TV channels and new media platforms. As such, creativity can be absorbed by the local broadcasting industry, and talents can be nurtured.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)109

(Question Serial No. 2744)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

- (a) The 2016-17 estimate for Programme (2), ie. Public Affairs and General Television Programme, see an increase from the revised estimate of 2015-16 by 26%. What is the purpose of the increase in the expenditure concerned? What are the details?
- (b) Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) is going to take over the analogue spectrum freed by Asia TV upon the expiry of its domestic free television programme service licence. What is the current status of RTHK's work regarding this?
- (c) What are the expenditures of 2016-17 involved in RTHK's takeover of the analogue spectrum? What is the staffing establishment involved?
- (d) Will RTHK provide 24-hour TV broadcasting service in the future? If so, what are the details and estimated expenditure? If not, what are the reasons for such?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (Member Question No. 44)

Reply:

- (a) The 2016-17 estimate of expenditure under Programme (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) is 26% higher than the revised estimate of 2015-16. The reasons for such increase include: all expenditures in relation to putting forward the transmission of programmes on the 2 analogue television channels to be vacated by Asia Television Limited (ATV), the enhancement of digital terrestrial television (DTT) services, filling of vacant posts, etc.
- (b) Regarding the transitional analogue television service, RTHK has awarded the contract to a third party service provider, which will provide the transmission service for the analogue TV broadcast for RTHK after the free television programme service licence of ATV expires on 2 April this year. At that time, RTHK will arrange for the programmes of RTHK TV 31 and RTHK TV 33 on the DTT channels to be simulcast

respectively on the 2 analogue TV channels vacated by ATV. In other words, one of the vacated channels will simulcast the programmes of RTHK TV 31, while the other one will simulcast the English programmes of China Central Television (CCTV)-9 Documentary broadcast on RTHK TV 33, and the work is in progress.

- (c) Regarding the transitional analogue television service in 2016-17, the expenditure it involves amount to about \$59.4 million, which covers the fees to be paid to the service provider of analogue television transmission service for RTHK, expenses for acquisition of related broadcasting equipment and other related expenses. For the provision of such service, RTHK has not acquired any additional manpower.
- (d) RTHK is planning to enhance its DTT services. RTHK's DTT network is anticipated to extend to a coverage of about 99% of the local population by early 2019. RTHK is also preparing to launch a complete 24-hour service on RTHK TV 31 in the future. RTHK's current plan is to gradually increase the production hours of its first-run TV programmes by 215 hours, from about 1 335 hours in 2015-16 to 1 550 hours in 2020-21.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2114)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The free TV licence of Asia Television Limited will expire on 1 April, and Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) is preparing to take over part of its frequency spectrum for broadcasting. In this regard, please inform the Committee of the latest progress, estimated expenditure in the coming year, and manpower arrangement involved in the related work of RTHK?

Asked by: Hon Claudia MO (Member Question No. 42)

Reply:

Regarding the transitional analogue television service, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has awarded the contract to a third party service provider, which will provide the transmission service for the analogue TV broadcast for RTHK after the television programme service licence of Asia Television Limited (ATV) expires on 2 April this year. At that time, RTHK will arrange for the programmes of RTHK TV 31 and RTHK TV 33 on the digital terrestrial television channels to be simulcast respectively on the 2 analogue TV channels vacated by ATV. In other words, one of the vacated channels will simulcast the programmes of RTHK TV 31, while the other one will simulcast the English programmes of China Central Television (CCTV)-9 Documentary broadcast on RTHK TV 33. The works are proceeding on schedule.

In 2016-17, with respect to the transitional analogue television service, the expenditure involved is approximately \$59.4 million, including the fees of the aforementioned transmission service, the expenditure for the installation of related broadcasting equipment, and other relevant expenditure. Manpower will not be increased in this regard.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)111

(Question Serial No. 5344)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Programme (2) of Head 160 mentions the expenditure of the digital terrestrial television (DTT) services of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK). Would the Government inform us of the following:

- (a) the number of transmitting stations (by transmitters, transmitting stations, fill-in stations, etc., in a breakdown) currently used by RTHK to provide DTT services, and their operational expenses in 2015-16;
- (b) the estimated expenditure for the whole project of establishing 22 fill-in stations in 5 years by phases for DTT services, which is underway as indicated by RTHK, and the actual expenditure as at present;
- (c) the timetable of the remaining part of the project in respect of (b) having regard that the first 5 fill-in stations are expected to be completed by early to mid-2016; and
- (d) the format and estimated expenditure of the promotional activities on DTT reception in 2016-17, which is estimated to be in a number of 65?

Asked by: Hon Charles Peter MOK (Member Question No. 132)

Reply:

- (a) As at March 2016, the digital terrestrial television (DTT) transmitting stations / fill-in stations of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) now in operation are listed in the table below:

		Number
Transmitting stations	Temple Hill, Kowloon Peak, Cloudy Hill, Castle Peak, Lamma Island, Golden Hill, Mount Nicholson	7
Fill-in stations	Brick Hill, Sai Wan Shan, Hill 374 (Yuen Long),	5

		Number
	Pottinger Peak, Stanley	

In 2015-16, the total operating expenditure incurred by RTHK on DTT transmitting stations is \$13.63 million.

- (b) The estimated expenditure for the whole project of establishing 22 DTT fill-in stations is \$64.2 million. As at March 2016, the actual expenditure incurred is \$9.82 million.
- (c) In early 2016, RTHK completed the construction of the first batch of 5 fill-in stations, which commenced service in March 2016. RTHK is now working on the preparation and tendering procedures for the second batch of 6 other fill-in stations; these fill-in stations are expected to commence service gradually at the end of 2016. The third batch of 6 and the fourth batch of 5 fill-in stations are expected to commence service at the end of 2017 and in early 2019 respectively.
- (d) In 2016-17, it is estimated that an expenditure of about \$1 million will be incurred on promotion of the reception of RTHK's DTT signals, including enhancement of promotion by advertisements to be placed on major public transport facilities, newspapers, internet platforms, social media, etc. Promotion on various formats will also be done within the community, which includes "31 Red Ball" Project and roving exhibitions to promote RTHK's television channels and how their signals are received. In August 2015, a RTHK TV31 Channel Tuning Service Team was set up; the team targets to visit 2 public housing estates on 4 days every month, answering the public's enquiries relating to the proper reception of RTHK's DTT channels as well as providing door-to-door tuning service, with a view to enabling more members of the public to view RTHK's television channels.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)112

(Question Serial No. 5345)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Regarding the expenditure of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) in preparing for its takeover of the analogue television channels from Asia Television Limited, will the Government inform us of the following:

- (a) RTHK and Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) signed a contract in February this year regarding the supply of analogue television transmission service, specifying TVB as the provider of the service of 40 analogue television transmitting stations for RTHK from 2 April onwards, for a period of 3 years. How much is this contract worth? What is the coverage of these 40 analogue television transmitting stations? and
- (b) The analogue transmission equipment ordered by RTHK will arrive at the end of this month. What is the amount of expenditure for its purchase? What is the coverage provided by this equipment?

Asked by: Hon Charles Peter MOK (Member Question No. 133)

Reply:

- (a) Regarding the provision of the stop-gap analogue television service, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has awarded the contract to a third party service provider, which will provide broadcast of the analogue television transmission service for RTHK from 2 April this year after the expiry of the free television programme service licence of Asia Television Limited. The contract period is 3 years with a value of \$151 million. The service provider is required to provide transmission service and transmission equipment to RTHK for 40 analogue television transmitting stations, with coverage of about 99% of Hong Kong's population.
- (b) As at the end of February 2016, RTHK's actual expenditure incurred on the purchase of analogue transmission equipment is \$4.25 million. Most of the equipment has been delivered to RTHK for testing.

The equipment is mostly the head end equipment of analogue television. Most of which is installed in the Master Control Room of RTHK and used for coding and format conversion before the analogue signal is transmitted to the transmitting stations. The signal is then transmitted to the transmitting stations for broadcasting. As for the transmission service and transmission equipment for the analogue television transmitting stations, they are provided by the service provider, with coverage of about 99% of Hong Kong's population.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)113

(Question Serial No. 5346)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Regarding the problems of dilapidation and inadequate floor area of the current facilities in the buildings of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), will the Government inform us of the following:

- (a) In the 2015-16 work plan, RTHK indicated that it would continue the re-planning work for New Broadcasting House project in Tseung Kwan O, and to work out the most cost-effective plan for this. Please inform us of the specific work, expenditure and manpower involved in 2015-16;
- (b) The work plan, estimated expenditure and manpower involved in the building of the New Broadcasting House project for 2016-17;
- (c) The number of RTHK staff complaints regarding working environment and occupational health and safety in the past 3 years; and
- (d) The work and the expenditure for ensuring a comfortable and safe working environment and the compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety requirements for 2015-16, and the work plan and estimated expenditure for the coming year.

Asked by: Hon Charles Peter MOK (Member Question No. 134)

Reply:

The funding application for the construction of the New Broadcasting House (New BH) of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) was not supported by the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) of the Legislative Council in January 2014. Most PWSC Members agreed in principle that there was a need for a New BH but had grave concerns over the project estimate and scope. RTHK and the Architectural Services Department have been, since early 2014, conducting thorough review of the project, taking into account the

concerns of the PWSC Members with a view to working out the most cost-effective proposal while at the same time addressing Members' comments.

Since the issues encountered during the review were more complicated than expected, we need more time to deal with them. We will take forward the New BH Project in accordance with the procedures for implementing Government capital works projects. Upon completion of the review and internal planning, we will follow up on the proposal in accordance with the established mechanism.

In 2015-16 and 2016-17, the relevant expenditures on the planning of the New BH have been covered by Head 160 - Radio Television Hong Kong without an itemised breakdown.

In the past 3 years, RTHK did not receive any complaint from the staff on working environment, and occupational health and safety. RTHK always attaches importance to the occupational safety and health of staff. Given the change of works schedule, prior to the commissioning of the New BH, RTHK will strive to continue to properly maintain and improve its existing facilities, so as to ensure occupational safety and health. As works of this nature are included in RTHK's daily maintenance, repair and improvement works, there is no expenditure record on this category.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)114

(Question Serial No. 5349)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio
(2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Regarding the performance of the programmes of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), please inform us of the following:

- (a) The average listenership of RTHK's audio broadcast programmes in the past 3 years, and the annual operational expenses for each programme;
- (b) The distribution of categories of RTHK's audio broadcast programmes for 2015-16;
- (c) The average listenership of RTHK TV 31's programmes, and the annual operational expenses for each programme;
- (d) The distribution of categories of RTHK TV 31's programmes; and
- (e) The number of viewers of RTHK TV 31, if statistics of such have been conducted.

Asked by: Hon Charles Peter MOK (Member Question No. 137)

Reply:

- (a) According to the audience surveys conducted in the past 3 years, the number of audience who listened to Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) in the past 7 days is as follows:

2013	2 949 000
2014	3 288 000
2015	3 476 000

The annual total operational expenses of the Radio Division in RTHK already include programme production, and the breakdown of expenditure in relation to individual

programme is not available. The annual operational expenses are \$300 million in 2013-14, \$339 million in 2014-15, and \$362 million in 2015-16.

- (b) In 2015-16, the distribution by categories of RTHK's audio broadcast programmes is as follows:

Programme Categories	%
Music	32
News	19
Arts, Culture and Education	17
Information	15
Current Affairs	4
Entertainment	4
Others	9
Total:	100

- (c) & (e) The digital terrestrial television (DTT) service provided by RTHK is still in the development stage, and the signal can cover about 80% of the population in Hong Kong. According to the Public Opinion Programme at the University of Hong Kong commissioned by RTHK, the results of the telephone interview conducted in January 2016, with respect to the reception of RTHK digital TV signal indicated that, in the 1 063 samples successfully interviewed, 55% responded that they could watch RTHK TV 31, TV 32 and TV 33 at home, and 41% indicated that they had watched RTHK TV 31, TV 32 and TV 33 before. In addition, RTHK has also conducted a "Television Programme Appreciation Index Survey" on its DTT programmes, so as to reflect the quality and acceptability of RTHK programmes in a more accurate and effective way. According to the survey in 2015, RTHK programmes scored the highest amongst local stations.

In 2015-16, the programme production cost per hour is around \$311,400 on average.

- (d) In 2015-16, the distribution by categories of RTHK TV 31's programmes is as follows:

Programme Categories	%
Current Affairs	16.6
Special Interest Groups (Including elderly, minorities and the underprivileged)	6.3
Youth and Children	14.7
Arts and Culture	15.2
Civic Education	21.6
Continuing Education	18.5
Mainland Affairs	7.1
Total:	100

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)115

(Question Serial No. 2593)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

To assess the human resource management situation of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), so as to measure the reasonableness of the financial provision, please list out the staff wastage rate, the number of staff resigned, the number of retirees, the number of staff dismissed, and the number of staff recruited of RTHK in the past 3 years, and the number of existing staff who were previously employed under non-civil service contracts and now under civil service contracts.

Asked by: Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT (Member Question No. 51)

Reply:

The information regarding the recruitment and turnover of civil servants and non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) for the past 3 years is as follows:

(a) Civil Servants

	Number of Staff Recruited (Number of Former RTHK NCSC Staff Recruited)	Number of Staff Leaving RTHK ^{Note 1}	Total Number of Civil Servants	Wastage Rate
2013-14 (as at 31.3.2014)	39 (16)	31 [including 24 retired, 7 resigned]	545	5.7%
2014-15 (as at 31.3.2015)	80 (45)	22 [including 16 retired, 6 resigned]	609	3.6%
2015-16 (as at 31.12.2015)	53 (24)	34 [including 22 retired, 12 resigned]	638	5.3%

Note 1: Excluding inter-departmental posting of general grades staff.

(b) NCSC Staff

	Number of Staff Recruited	Number of Staff Leaving RTHK^{Note 2}	Total Number of NCSC Staff	Wastage Rate
2013-14 (as at 31.3.2014)	112	92 [including 55 resigned, 35 completed contracts, 2 dismissed]	291	31.6%
2014-15 (as at 31.3.2015)	88	71 [including 43 resigned, 28 completed contracts]	261	27.2%
2015-16 (as at 31.12.2015)	62	47 [including 37 resigned, 10 completed contracts]	245	19.2%

Note 2: Excluding mutual resolution of contracts for taking up civil service appointments/other NCSC positions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)116

(Question Serial No. 2594)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

In 2016-17, the total expenditure of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) is estimated at \$978 million, representing an annual increase of 16%. In order to examine whether such increase in expenditure is necessary, please provide a breakdown of the additional expenditure by items, and list out any other options which have been considered by RTHK for each item that requires additional expenditure; and the reasons why the other options were not eventually employed.

Asked by: Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT (Member Question No. 52)

Reply:

In 2016-17, the total expenditure of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) is estimated at \$978 million. The reasons for the increase include: putting forward the transmission of programmes on the 2 analogue television (TV) channels to be vacated by Asia Television Limited (ATV), the enhancement of digital terrestrial television (DTT) services, and the establishment of Community Involvement Broadcasting Service (CIBS) as an on-going service, etc.

Regarding the proceeding of transmission of programmes on the 2 analogue channels to be vacated by ATV, since ATV's free TV licence will not be renewed, and the new licensee of free TV service has no intention to provide analogue broadcast, current households who only have analogue TV sets will be lessened the choice of 1 free TV broadcaster and its programmes before they change to digital TV sets or install a set-top box to receive DTT broadcast. To provide more choices, the Government has invited RTHK to provide stop-gap analogue TV service on the 2 analogue TV channels to be vacated by ATV after 1 April 2016, and simulcasting RTHK's programmes broadcast on its digital platforms. After consideration of RTHK's current hardware and software, and a detailed analysis from the perspectives of cost effectiveness, risk management and a seamless transition, we consider that the most prudent way is to procure the analogue TV transmission service from the market. As a result, RTHK has awarded the contract to a third party service provider, which will provide the analogue TV transmission service for RTHK after the free TV

programme service licence of ATV expires on 2 April this year. RTHK has to increase its expenditures for 2016-17 to pay the fees of the service provider, for installation of related broadcasting equipment and other related expenses.

RTHK is planning to enhance its DTT services. RTHK's DTT network is anticipated to extend to cover about 99% of the local population by early 2019. To meet public demand, RTHK is preparing to launch a full 24-hour service on RTHK TV 31 in the future. RTHK's current plan is to gradually increase the production hours of its first-run TV programmes from around 1 335 hours in 2015-16 to 1 550 hours in 2020-21, with an increase of 215 hours or 16.1%.

Regarding audio broadcast, RTHK launched the Pilot Project for CIBS (the Project) in 2012, with a provision of \$45 million approved by the Legislative Council to set up the Community Involvement Broadcasting Fund to subsidise community groups and members for the successful production of programmes. To find out the awareness and opinions of the public and various sectors about the Project, RTHK conducted a focus group study from September to November 2014. The result of the study indicates that the participants generally had positive feedback on the Project and considered that the Project could involve community members to take part in producing programmes and voice their opinions. Participants of the Project also considered in general that the Project had helped them better understand radio programme production, and it had also achieved the anticipated social gain and promoted their knowledge related to the programme topics. In 2016-17, the Project will be established as an on-going service. RTHK thus needs additional resources to enhance promotion of the service to the public; it will also increase briefing sessions for the public and widen the scope of outreaching promotional activities. The online platforms of the current Project will also be upgraded, so as to accord with sustainable development.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)117

(Question Serial No. 2595)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Radio Television Hong Kong is preparing to proceed with transmission of programmes on the two analogue TV channels to be vacated by Asia Television Limited. According to the current plan, how much financial resources and manpower are required in the work related? How much can be deployed from the existing resources and manpower to meet the requirement? How much additional resources and manpower are required?

Asked by: Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT (Member Question No. 53)

Reply:

Regarding the transitional analogue television service, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has awarded the contract to a third party service provider, which will provide the transmission service for the analogue TV broadcast for RTHK after the television programme service licence of Asia Television Limited (ATV) expires on 2 April this year. At that time, RTHK will arrange for the programmes of RTHK TV 31 and RTHK TV 33 on the digital terrestrial television channels to be simulcast respectively on the 2 analogue TV channels vacated by ATV. In other words, one of the vacated channels will simulcast the programmes of RTHK TV 31, while the other one will simulcast the English programmes of China Central Television (CCTV) -9 Documentary broadcast on RTHK TV 33. The works are proceeding on schedule.

In 2016-17, with respect to the transitional analogue television service, the expenditure involved is approximately \$59.4 million, including the fees for the aforementioned service, the expenditure for the installation of related broadcasting equipment, and other relevant expenditure. Manpower will not be increased in this regard.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)118

(Question Serial No. 3258)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Regarding the digital terrestrial television (DTT) of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), can the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What is the current coverage percentage of RTHK's DTT services (in public and private housing developments)? When does the Government expect the coverage to reach 100%, so that all the people of Hong Kong can view the TV programmes through DTT?
- (b) What are the current audience ratings of RTHK's DTT?
- (c) After the launch of RTHK's DTT, how many public comments has the Government received with regard to the services? What are the details of the comments?
- (d) As some members of the public have indicated that they had yet been able to receive DTT services, and property management issues were involved. Does the Government have any initiatives that allow the public to view DTT broadcasting programmes as early as possible?
- (e) How much resources will be allocated to the promotion of DTT in 2016-17? What are the details?

Asked by: Hon SIN Chung-kai (Member Question No. 36)

Reply:

- (a) From 2014, the digital terrestrial television (DTT) channels of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) have been transmitted through 7 transmission stations, namely Temple Hill, Golden Hill, Castle Peak, Kowloon Peak, Cloudy Hill, Lamma Island and Mount Nicholson, to TV households in most of the districts on the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon Peninsula and New Territories; the signal coverage is now stretched to about 75% of the Hong Kong population. RTHK continues to build other fill-in stations.

In early March 2016, the establishment of 5 fill-in stations was completed, expanding the signal coverage to about 80% of the Hong Kong population. Other fill-in stations will be completed by phases until early 2019, further stretching the signal coverage to about 99% of the Hong Kong population.

- (b) The DTT service provided by RTHK is still in the development stage, and the signal can cover about 80% of the population in Hong Kong. According to the Public Opinion Programme at the University of Hong Kong commissioned by RTHK, the results of the telephone interview conducted in January 2016, with respect to the reception of RTHK digital TV signal indicated that, in the 1 063 samples successfully interviewed, 55% responded that they could watch RTHK TV 31, TV 32 and TV 33 at home, and 41% indicated that they had watched RTHK TV 31, TV 32 and TV 33 before.

In addition, RTHK has conducted a “Television Programme Appreciation Index Survey” on its DTT programmes, so as to reflect the quality and acceptability of RTHK programmes in a more accurate and effective way. According to the survey in 2015, RTHK programmes scored the highest amongst local stations.

- (c) Upon the inauguration of RTHK’s DTT services, we have received a lot of feedback from the public by email, telephone and other means. Most of the feedback is positive and in support for RTHK’s DTT services. The most common views are about the wish for continuous enhancement of the services, more broadcast hours and more variety in programme types and contents. Some of the members of the public also enquire about problems of receiving DTT signals, enquire how to scan channels, and seek technical assistance.
- (d) Since RTHK’s transmission network of its DTT signals has not yet covered the entire Hong Kong population, we are meanwhile developing new media platforms to enable viewers to get in touch with RTHK’s TV programmes through various channels. Viewers can click on RTHK’s website and mobile communication applications to view RTHK’s TV programmes. In addition, a large number of RTHK’s DTT programmes have been uploaded to the YouTube platform and social media, such as the special Facebook page.

To address the problem of former and existing subscribers of Hong Kong Cable Television Limited (Cable TV) who could not receive RTHK TV channels via Cable TV’s Communal Aerial Broadcast Distribution even after upgrading of the public antennae, RTHK has worked with Cable TV to transmit RTHK’s DTT signals through its transmission system in individual residential estates via DTT signals interconnection. With the completion of the works, most of Cable TV’s subscribers of those residential estates are able to watch RTHK’s 3 DTT channels.

- (e) In 2016-17, it is estimated that an expenditure of about \$1 million will be incurred on promotion, including enhancement of promotion by advertisements to be placed on major public transport facilities, newspapers, internet platforms, social media, etc. Promotion on various formats will also be done within the community, which includes “31 Red Ball” Project and roving exhibitions to promote RTHK’s television channels

and how their signals are received. In August 2015, a Channel Tuning Service Team was set up; the team targets to visit 2 public housing estates on 4 days every month, answering the public's enquiries relating to the proper reception of RTHK's DTT channels as well as providing door-to-door tuning service, with a view to enabling more members of the public to view RTHK's television channels.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)119

(Question Serial No. 3259)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The Government states that it will launch new mobile applications to enhance its news service; what are the expenditures involved and details concerned? Will the Government set a timetable for launching these new mobile applications, so that the public can be informed of the progress?

Asked by: Hon SIN Chung-kai (Member Question No. 37)

Reply:

Radio Television Hong Kong launched the brand-new mobile application “RTHK News” on 24 August 2015.

The related expenditures and details are as follows:

Dates (conclusion)	Details	Expenditure / Estimated Expenditure
August 2015	First-stage development	\$336,000
Second half of 2015	Promotion	\$755,400
October 2015	Enhancement of interface functions	\$55,000
December 2015	Introduction of live broadcast functions for RTHK Radio 1 and 3	\$122,400
Second half of 2016	Introduction of live video broadcast functions	\$100,000 (Estimated expenditure)

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)120

(Question Serial No. 5029)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Regarding the New Broadcasting House (New BH) project of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) in Tseung Kwan O, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) If RTHK continues to operate on the Broadcast Drive, what will be the effects on its digitisation?
- (b) What is the current progress of the planning of the New BH? Is there a more cost-saving project proposal for submission to the Legislative Council for consideration? If so, what are the details and the works schedule? If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) With respect to the planning of the New BH, what are the expenditure and major work in 2016-17?

Asked by: Hon SIN Chung-kai (Member Question No. 38)

Reply:

The funding application for the construction of the New Broadcasting House (New BH) of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) was not supported by the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) of the Legislative Council in January 2014. Most PWSC Members agreed in principle that there was a need for a New BH but had grave concerns over the project estimate and scope. RTHK and the Architectural Services Department have been, since early 2014, conducting thorough review of the project taking into account the concerns of the PWSC Members with a view to working out the most cost-effective proposal while at the same time addressing Members' comments.

Since the issues encountered during the review were more complicated than expected, we need more time to deal with them. We will take forward the New BH Project in accordance with the procedures for implementing Government capital works projects.

Upon completion of the review and internal planning, we will follow up on the proposal in accordance with the established mechanism.

The digitisation development of RTHK is hindered to some extent by insufficient space and ageing infrastructures of its existing premises along the Broadcast Drive, and the cost and time for the management, liaison and transportation in the course of digitisation development have also been increased for this.

In the face of the current situation, prior to the commissioning of the New BH, we will endeavour to implement a number of temporary measures to improve the facilities and working environment of RTHK, in order to maintain the service standard of public service broadcasting.

In 2016-17, the relevant expenditure on the planning of the New BH has been covered by Head 160 - Radio Television Hong Kong without an itemised breakdown.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)121

(Question Serial No. 5042)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

How many output hours of Radio Television Hong Kong's General TV programmes are broadcast on Television Broadcasts Limited and Asia Television Limited (ATV)? Given that the TV licence of ATV will expire in April 2016, what initiatives does the Government have to ensure that the related programmes will be broadcast as usual?

Asked by: Hon SIN Chung-kai (Member Question No. 51)

Reply:

In 2015-16, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) broadcast its general television programmes on Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) and Asia Television Limited (ATV) for 391.4 hours and 345 hours respectively. In other words, an average of 7.5 hours and 6.6 hours of the said programmes are broadcast per week on TVB and ATV respectively.

Regarding the transitional analogue television service, RTHK has awarded the contract to a third party service provider, which will provide the transmission service for the analogue TV broadcast for RTHK after the television programme service licence of ATV expires on 2 April this year. At that time, RTHK will arrange for the programmes of RTHK TV 31 and RTHK TV 33 on the digital terrestrial television channels to be simulcast respectively on the 2 analogue television channels vacated by ATV. In other words, one of the vacated channels will simulcast the programmes of RTHK TV 31, while the other one will simulcast the English programmes of China Central Television (CCTV)-9 Documentary broadcast on RTHK TV 33.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)122

(Question Serial No. 2275)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The work in next year includes proceeding with transmission of programmes on the two analogue TV channels to be vacated by Asia Television Limited (ATV) in April 2016. In this regard, would the Government inform the Committee of the following:

- (a) Does it require additional manpower? If so, please provide a breakdown of the manpower by additional posts;
- (b) What is the increased expenditure involved? Please provide a breakdown of the amount by operating expenses and emoluments;
- (c) As premature discontinuation of ATV is highly possible, will Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) consider taking over the two analogue channels in advance?
- (d) If the two analogue channels are taken over in advance, will RTHK consider continued employment of the current ATV staff in order to meet the imminent operational needs?

Asked by: Hon TANG KA-piu (Member Question No. 76)

Reply:

- (a) Regarding the transitional analogue television service, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has awarded the contract to a third party service provider, which will provide the transmission service for the analogue TV broadcast for RTHK after the television programme service licence of Asia Television Limited (ATV) expires on 2 April this year. At that time, RTHK will make arrangements for the simulcast on the digital terrestrial television channels. In other words, one of the vacated analogue TV channels will simulcast the programmes of RTHK TV 31, while the other one will simulcast the English programmes of China Central Television (CCTV)-9 Documentary broadcast on RTHK TV 33. Manpower will not be increased in this regard.
- (b) In 2016-17, with respect to the transitional analogue television service, the expenditure involved is approximately \$59.4 million, including the fees for the aforementioned

transmission service, the expenditure for the installation of related broadcasting equipment, and other relevant expenditure.

- (c) If premature discontinuation of ATV happens before 2 April, after the assignment of spectrum has been conducted, RTHK will take over the 2 analogue TV channels to be vacated by ATV in alignment with public interest.
- (d) As a government department, RTHK recruits staff in line with its operation needs, and the recruitments are conducted in accordance with the established procedures. To better assist the staff of ATV, RTHK has already provided the information of job vacancies in RTHK to Labour Department for consolidated handling and dissemination. If ATV staff members are interested in joining RTHK, they can apply in compliance with the procedures. In general, applicants with substantial working experience related to the positions offered, and familiar with the practices of the trade will have advantages in applying for relevant positions and have higher chance of appointment.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)123

(Question Serial No. 3086)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Radio Television Hong Kong will proceed with the transmission of programmes on the 2 analogue television channels to be vacated by Asia Television Limited in April 2016. Can the Government inform this Committee of whether new first-runs will be produced for these 2 channels; whether new programmes will be acquired, and/or whether certain local and/or overseas free TV channels will be relayed; and whether additional provision will be needed for these purposes?

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-hing (Member Question No. 122)

Reply:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will arrange for the programmes of RTHK TV 31 and RTHK TV 33 on the digital terrestrial television (DTT) channels to be simulcast respectively on the 2 analogue television channels vacated by Asia Television Limited. In other words, one of the vacated channels will simulcast the programmes of RTHK TV 31, while the other one will simulcast the English programmes of China Central Television (CCTV)-9 Documentary broadcast on RTHK TV 33.

RTHK will enhance the DTT services gradually, including additional production of first-runs, acquisition of new programmes, extending service hours, etc. However, there will not be additional production, acquisition or relay of other overseas channels on the 2 analogue TV channels.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)124

(Question Serial No. 4122)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Please provide the following information on the hiring of “out-sourced staff”:

	2015-16 (the latest position)
Total number of outsourcing contracts	()
Total sum paid to outsourcing service companies	()
The contract period of each outsourcing service company	()
Number of outsourced employees hired through outsourcing service companies	()
Distribution of outsourced staff posts (for example, customer services, property management, security, cleansing services, telecommunication technology, etc.)	
Monthly salary distribution of outsourced employees	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● \$30,001 or above ● Between \$16,001 and \$30,000 ● Between \$8,001 and \$16,000 ● Between \$6,501 and \$8,000 ● Between \$6,240 and \$6,500 ● Below \$6,240 	<div align="center">()</div> <div align="center">()</div> <div align="center">()</div> <div align="center">()</div> <div align="center">()</div> <div align="center">()</div>
The outsourced staff's length of employment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More than 15 years ● From 10 to 15 years ● From 5 to 10 years ● From 3 to 5 years ● From 1 to 3 years ● Less than 1 year 	<div align="center">()</div> <div align="center">()</div> <div align="center">()</div> <div align="center">()</div> <div align="center">()</div> <div align="center">()</div>
The percentage of outsourced staff against the total number of employees in the department	()
The percentage of the total sum paid to outsourcing service companies against the total staff cost in the department	()
Number of staff having received severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	()
Total sum paid as severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	()

	2015-16 (the latest position)
Number of staff whose accrued benefits derived from employer's contributions to the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) Scheme were used to offset the severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	()
Total sum of accrued benefits derived from employer's contributions to the MPF Scheme which was used to offset the severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	()
The number of employees with paid meal break	()
The number of employees without paid meal break	()
The number of employees working 5 days a week	()
The number of employees working 6 days a week	()

() increase and decrease in percentage as compared with the same period in 2014-15

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-hing (Member Question No. 103)

Reply:

The information is as follows:

	2015-16 (As at March 2016)
Total number of outsourcing contracts	5(-)
Total sum paid to outsourcing service companies	Around \$86.05m (+6.1%)
The contract period of each outsourcing service company	2 x 2 years 1 x 2.5 years 1 x 3 years 1 x 5 years
Number of outsourced employees hired through outsourcing service companies	Around 218 (-)
Distribution of outsourced staff posts (for example, customer services, property management, security, cleansing services, telecommunication technology, etc.)	Staff engaged in cleansing and security services, engineers and technicians
Monthly salary distribution of outsourced employees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$30,001 or above • Between \$16,001 and \$30,000 • Between \$8,001 and \$16,000 • Between \$6,501 and \$8,000 • Between \$6,240 and \$6,500 • Below \$6,240 	3 of the contracts do not have the information required. In the other 2 contracts related to cleansing and security services, the monthly salaries of 33 full-time posts are between \$8,001 and \$16,000.
The outsourced staff's length of employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 15 years • From 10 to 15 years • From 5 to 10 years • From 3 to 5 years • From 1 to 3 years • Less than 1 year 	No information
The percentage of outsourced staff against the total number of employees in the	Around 25% (-)

	2015-16 (As at March 2016)
department	
The percentage of the total sum paid to outsourcing service companies against the total staff cost in the department	Around 20% (-)
Number of staff having received severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	No information
Total sum paid as severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	No information
Number of staff whose accrued benefits derived from employer's contributions to the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) Scheme were used to offset the severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	No information
Total sum of accrued benefits derived from employer's contributions to the MPF Scheme which was used to offset the severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	No information
The number of employees with paid meal break The number of employees without paid meal break	No information
The number of employees working 5 days a week The number of employees working 6 days a week	The contracts require 6-day or 7-day service a week. Information on the work arrangement of individual employees is unavailable.

() increase and decrease in percentage as compared with the same period in 2014-15

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)125

(Question Serial No. 4123)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Please provide information regarding the hiring of “agency staff” as follows:

	2015-16 (the latest position)
The number of contracts on agencies	()
Total contract value with each agency	()
The contract period of the service provided by each agency	()
Number of employees from the agencies	()
Distribution of agency staff's positions	
Monthly salary distribution of agency employees	
● \$30,001 or above	()
● Between \$16,001 and \$30,000	()
● Between \$8,001 and \$16,000	()
● Between \$6,501 and \$8,000	()
● Between \$6,240 and \$6,500	()
● Below \$6,240	()
The agency staff's length of employment	
● More than 15 years	()
● From 10 to 15 years	()
● From 5 to 10 years	()
● From 3 to 5 years	()
● From 1 to 3 years	()
● Less than 1 year	()
The number of agency staff against the total number of employees in the department (in percentage)	()
The total sum paid to agencies against the total staff cost in the department (in percentage)	()
Number of staff having received severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	()
Total sum paid as severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	()

Number of staff whose accrued benefits derived from employer's contributions to the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) Scheme were used to offset the severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	()
Total sum of accrued benefits derived from employer's contributions to the MPF Scheme which was used to offset the severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	()
The number of employees with paid meal break	()
The number of employees without paid meal break	()
The number of employees working 5 days a week	()
The number of employees working 6 days a week	()

() increase and decrease in percentage as compared with the same period in 2014-15

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-hing (Member Question No. 104)

Reply:

	2015-16 (As at March 2016)
The number of contracts on agencies	None (0%)
Total contract value with each agency	N.A.
The contract period of the service provided by each agency	N.A.
Number of employees from the agencies	N.A.
Distribution of agency staff's positions	
Monthly salary distribution of agency employees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$30,001 or above • Between \$16,001 and \$30,000 • Between \$8,001 and \$16,000 • Between \$6,501 and \$8,000 • Between \$6,240 and \$6,500 • Below \$6,240 	N.A.
The agency staff's length of employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 15 years • From 10 to 15 years • From 5 to 10 years • From 3 to 5 years • From 1 to 3 years • Less than 1 year 	N.A.
The number of agency staff against the total number of employees in the department (in percentage)	N.A.
The total sum paid to agencies against the total staff cost in the department (in percentage)	N.A.
Number of staff having received severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	N.A.
Total sum paid as severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	N.A.
Number of staff whose accrued benefits derived from employer's contributions to the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) Scheme were used to offset the severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	N.A.
Total sum of accrued benefits derived from employer's contributions to the MPF Scheme which was used to offset the severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	N.A.
The number of employees with paid meal break	N.A.
The number of employees without paid meal break	N.A.

The number of employees working 5 days a week	N.A.
The number of employees working 6 days a week	N.A.

() *increase and decrease in percentage as compared with the same period in 2014-15*

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)126

(Question Serial No. 4124)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Please provide the following information on the employment of “non-civil service contract” (NCSC) staff:

	2015-16 (the latest position)
Total number of NCSC staff	()
Distribution of NCSC staff's posts	
Total amount of expenditure on the salaries for NCSC staff	()
Monthly salary distribution of NCSC staff	
● \$30,001 or above	()
● Between \$16,001 and \$30,000	()
● Between \$8,001 and \$16,000	()
● Between \$6,501 and \$8,000	()
● Between \$6,240 and \$6,500	()
● Below \$6,240	()
The NCSC staff's length of employment	
● More than 15 years	()
● From 10 to 15 years	()
● From 5 to 10 years	()
● From 3 to 5 years	()
● From 1 to 3 years	()
● Less than 1 year	()
The number of NCSC staff successfully converted to civil servants	()
The percentage of NCSC staff against the total number of employees in the department	()
The percentage of the total sum paid to NCSC staff against the total staff cost in the department	()
Number of staff having received severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	()
Total sum paid as severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	()
Number of staff whose accrued benefits derived from employer's contributions to the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) Scheme were used to offset the severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	()

Total sum of accrued benefits derived from employer's contributions to the MPF Scheme which was used to offset the severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	()
The number of employees with paid meal break	()
The number of employees without paid meal break	()
The number of employees working 5 days a week	()
The number of employees working 6 days a week	()

() increase and decrease in percentage as compared with the same period in 2014-15

Asked by: Hon WONG Kwok-hing (Member Question No. 105)

Reply:

As the number of NCSC staff is always changing to meet operational needs, we are only able to provide the information as at 31 December 2015 in 2015-16 and compare it with that in 2014-15 as follows:

	2015-16 (As at 31 December 2015)
Total number of NCSC staff	245 (-5%)
Distribution of NCSC staff's posts	Various posts
Total amount of expenditure on the salaries for NCSC staff	Around \$70m (-4.1%)
Monthly salary distribution of NCSC staff	
● \$30,001 or above	71 (+31.5%)
● Between \$16,001 and \$30,000	124 (-4.6%)
● Between \$8,001 and \$16,000	50 (-32.4%)
● Between \$6,501 and \$8,000	0(-)
● Between \$6,240 and \$6,500	0(-)
● Below \$6,240	0(-)
The NCSC staff's length of employment	
● More than 15 years	16 (+166.7%)
● From 10 to 15 years	23 (-36.1%)
● From 5 to 10 years	37 (-21.3%)
● From 3 to 5 years	29 (+16.0%)
● From 1 to 3 years	83 (+16.9%)
● Less than 1 year	57 (-21.9%)
The number of NCSC staff successfully converted to civil servants	24 ^{Note} (-38.5%)
The percentage of NCSC staff against the total number of employees in the department	27.5% (-2.5%)
The percentage of the total sum paid to NCSC staff against the total staff cost in the department	20% (-5%)
Number of staff having received severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	187 (-16.5%)
Total sum paid as severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	Around \$6m (-10.4%)
Number of staff whose accrued benefits derived from employer's contributions to the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) Scheme were used to offset the severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	5 (-)
Total sum of accrued benefits derived from employer's contributions to the MPF Scheme which was used to offset the severance payment/long service payment/end-of-contract gratuities	Around \$0.31m (-)
The number of employees with paid meal break	234 (-2.9%)
The number of employees without paid meal break	11 (-35.3%)
The number of employees working 5 days a week	218 (-0.5%)
The number of employees working 6 days a week	27 (-30.8%)

Note : These former Radio Television Hong Kong's NCSC staff have been appointed as

*Radio Television Hong Kong's civil servants through open recruitment.
() increase and decrease in percentage as compared with the same period in 2014-15*

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)127

(Question Serial No. 4544)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Please list the posts, salaries and number of staff of the non-civil service contract staff.

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuk-man (Member Question No. 55)

Reply:

As at 31 December 2015, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) had a total of 245 non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff. The salaries of NCSC staff are as follows:

NCSC Positions' Comparable Civil Service Ranks		Salaries	Number of Staff
Programme Officer Grade:	Principal Programme Officer	\$88,125	2
	Senior Programme Officer	\$52,180-\$64,745	7
	Programme Officer	\$32,560-\$51,805	22
	Assistant Programme Officer	\$10,500-\$31,020	123
	Programme Assistant	\$11,575-\$17,995	10
Ranks in Other Grades:		\$10,885-\$74,210	81
Total			245

When determining the pay level of NCSC staff, RTHK would follow the guidelines of the Civil Service Bureau and take into consideration the prevailing employment market, recruitment situation of relevant job categories and pay level of newly recruited civil servants of comparable civil service ranks. These factors may change from time to time, and the experiences as well as qualifications required for individual NCSC positions may differ. Hence, the salaries of serving and newly recruited NCSC staff may not be the same. However, RTHK would take into account the principle of internal parity when considering the offer of higher pay level to new NCSC staff of the same rank.

Furthermore, RTHK would regularly review the pay of serving NCSC staff under the established mechanism. As some of the serving NCSC staff have longer service in RTHK, their salaries will be higher than the newly recruited NCSC staff.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)128

(Question Serial No. 4545)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Radio Television Hong Kong will increase the scale of its television broadcasting services. Please list the establishment, rank, number of staff and the total estimates of expenditure of the programme production for this year.

Asked by: Hon WONG Yuk-man (Member Question No. 56)

Reply:

In 2016-17, the total provision of the TV Division of Radio Television Hong Kong is \$523.7 million, including the provision for the 3 digital terrestrial television (DTT) channels and the transmission of the transitional analogue television service. \$464.3 million of the provision will be used for the programme production of the 3 DTT channels and all the related operating costs.

The staff establishment of Public Affairs and General Television Programme consists of a total of 383 non-directorate staff, including 204 programme production staff and 179 production supporting staff.

Production staff and some production supporting staff are under the Programme Officer grade. The Programme Officer grades under non-directorate grade include Chief Programme Officer, Principal Programme Officer, Senior Programme Officer, Programme Officer, Assistant Programme Officer and Programme Assistant. Other supporting staff are from different grades such as Executive Officer, Clerical Officer and Personal Secretary, Official Languages Officer, Treasury Accountant, Accounting Officer, Transport Officer, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**EDB285****(Question Serial No. 0965)**Head: (160) Radio Television Hong KongSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (3) School Education Television ProgrammeControlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)Director of Bureau: Secretary for EducationQuestion:

The work of Radio Television Hong Kong includes producing school educational television programmes for the Education Bureau in support of the Government's education policies. What are the expenditure, estimated expenditure and manpower in the past 5 years and the coming year? Has any review been conducted to examine whether the current programmes of pre-primary, primary, junior and senior secondary levels are outdated and require revamps? Will contents regarding moral education, national education, Basic Law, etc. be included? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai (Member Question No. 17)Reply:

Nine programme directors and six animation designers are designated to ETV School programme production; other staff, such as production assistants, executive producers, cameramen, lighting-men, soundmen, editors, graphic designers, etc. are shared with other RTHK programme productions.

The expenditure in the past 5 years is as follows:

Financial Year	Actual (\$ million)
2014-15	30.8
2013-14	30.9
2012-13	27.6
2011-12	27.3
2010-11	28.4

The revised estimate for 2015-16 is \$31.8 million and the estimate for 2016-17 is \$33.9 million.

The Education Bureau collaborates with RTHK to produce 80 new Educational Television (ETV) Programmes each year. The programmes produced are in line with the latest

developments in the local curriculum to ensure that relevant and updated information is provided. In addition, an annual survey “Survey for Compilation of Performance Indicators for Measuring the Effectiveness of ETV Services” has been commissioned to a tertiary institution since 2002 for measuring the effectiveness of ETV services to feed back on the production of programmes. The effectiveness of the programmes is assessed by using the weighted average of the satisfaction scores in the areas of pedagogical design, appropriateness of content and presentation, achievement of teaching objectives and promotion of students’ interest and motivation to learn, etc. According to the last survey, the usefulness indicator for kindergartens, primary and secondary schools are 78, 79 and 72 out of 100 respectively. ETV programmes cover the eight Key Learning Areas and cross-curricular issues such as moral, civic and national education (including Basic Law education). From 2010-11 to 2015-16, about 30 programmes on moral, civic and national education including two programmes on Basic Law education have been produced.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

EDB662

(Question Serial No. 6618)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) School Education Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (LEUNG Ka Wing)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Education

Question:

Has Radio Television Hong Kong compiled statistics on the number of lessons used in primary and secondary schools for watching educational television (ETV) programmes over the past 5 years? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 299)

Reply:

Neither RTHK nor EDB collects data to compile statistics on the number of lessons used in primary and secondary schools for watching educational television (ETV) programmes as schools can now make use of ETV programmes to support learning and teaching anywhere and anytime rather than in specific lessons. Since 2006, schools can download ETV programmes from the Internet for use by teachers and students. In addition, a mobile application on ETV programmes was introduced in 2014. As such, the viewing of ETV programmes is not restricted to designated ETV lessons.

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