

Head 160 — RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG

Controlling officer: the Director of Broadcasting will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2021–22 **\$995.2m**

Establishment ceiling 2021–22 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 752 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2021 and as at 31 March 2022..... **\$486.6m**

In addition, there will be an estimated eight directorate posts as at 31 March 2021 and as at 31 March 2022.

Commitment balance..... **\$16.7m**

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

Programme (1) Radio	These programmes contribute to Policy Area 17: Information Technology and Broadcasting (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development).
Programme (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme	
Programme (3) School Education Television Programme	This programme contributes to Policy Area 16: Education (Secretary for Education).
Programme (4) New Media	This programme contributes to Policy Area 17: Information Technology and Broadcasting (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development).

Detail

Programme (1): Radio

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Original)	2020–21 (Revised)	2021–22 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	412.4	420.3	423.8 (+0.8%)	428.6 (+1.1%)
				(or +2.0% on 2020–21 Original)

Aim

2 As the public service broadcaster of Hong Kong, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) aims to inform, educate and entertain the general public through the provision of high quality radio programmes.

Brief Description

3 The Radio Division of RTHK produces and transmits radio programmes to the community of Hong Kong. It operates seven AM/FM channels, namely:

- Channel 1 (Cantonese) – news, information and general programming;
- Channel 2 (Cantonese) – entertainment and popular music, promotion of youth, family and community projects;
- Channel 3 (English) – news, information and general programming;
- Channel 4 (English and Cantonese) – serious music and fine arts;
- Channel 5 (Cantonese) – elderly, cultural and education;
- Channel 6 (Putonghua and Cantonese) – relay of China National Radio Hong Kong Edition; and
- Channel 7 (Putonghua and other languages) – general programming, news and finance, and Community Involvement Broadcasting Service (CIBS).

4 The Chinese and English radio news teams provide local, Mainland and international news for broadcast on radio, television (TV) and various online platforms. The video news team produces video news programmes and live feeds of news coverage (including special events and press conferences) for broadcast on RTHK TV 31, TV 32 and various online platforms.

5 To strengthen synergy between radio and TV services, Radio on TV programmes are simulcast on selected radio channels and RTHK TV 31.

Head 160 — RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG

6 CIBS provides a platform for community groups, non-government organisations and the underprivileged to participate in broadcasting.

7 The key performance measures in respect of radio are:

Target

	Target	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Revised Estimate)	2021–22 (Plan)
total hours of transmission@	61 320	61 320	61 320	61 320

@ There are seven radio channels, with each channel transmitting 8 760 programme hours annually. As the same information under target and indicators is overlapped, the previous indicator “hours of transmission” will be deleted as from 2021–22.

Indicators

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Revised Estimate)	2021–22 (Estimate)
distribution of programme content according to the Charter of RTHK (transmission hours)^			
to inform, educate and entertain members of the public through multi-media programming	22 340	21 990	22 040
to provide timely, impartial coverage of local, national and global events and issues	8 800	8 800	8 800
to deliver programming which contributes to the openness and cultural diversity of Hong Kong	6 900	7 334β	9 820β
to provide a platform for the Government and the community to discuss public policies and express views thereon without fear or favour.....	2 600	2 600	2 600
to serve a broad spectrum of audiences and cater to the needs of minority interest groups	9 000	9 300	9 300
hours of CIBS programmes produced.....	844	884	884
audience reach per channel (%/million)			
Channel 1	—	37/2.540	—¶
Channel 2	—	29/1.993	—¶
Channel 3	—	5/0.353	—¶
Channel 4	—	7/0.491	—¶
Channel 5	—	8/0.540	—¶
Channel 6	—	2/0.131	—¶
Channel 7	—	3/0.215	—¶
minority audience compared with total audience (%).....	—	22.4	—¶
no. of listeners (million).....	—	3.225	—¶
share of total listening time per channel (%)Ω			
Channel 1	—	20.7	—¶
Channel 2	—	23.3	—¶
Channel 3	—	1.0	—¶
Channel 4	—	0.8	—¶
Channel 5	—	10.0	—¶
Channel 6	—	0.2	—¶
Channel 7	—	0.3	—¶
appreciation index per channel (out of ten)#			
Channel 1	—	7.65	—¶
Channel 2	—	7.84	—¶
Channel 3	—	7.19	—¶
Channel 4	—	7.52	—¶
Channel 5	—	8.34	—¶
Channel 6	—	6.42	—¶
Channel 7	—	7.00	—¶
transmission hours per programme staff	385.7	365.0	365.0

Head 160 — RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Revised Estimate)	2021–22 (Estimate)
cost per transmission hour excluding Newsroom and CIBS (\$)			
Channel 1	7,130	7,490	7,670
Channel 2	5,780	6,190	6,340
Channel 3	3,040	3,230	3,260
Channel 4	3,690	3,840	3,870
Channel 5	3,060	3,050	2,920
Channel 6	11	11	11
Channel 7	2,290	2,550	2,580
cost per listener (\$)	—	130.1	—¶
community/educational projects organised	110	61ψ	60
no. of substantiated complaints	6	10	—

- ^ A new indicator as from 2021–22. It refers to the distribution of programme content in terms of transmission hours (excluding the relay of other broadcasting services) according to paragraph 5 of the Charter of RTHK to better reflect RTHK’s role as public service broadcaster and replaces the previous indicators “hours of news programming output” and “radio hours devoted to public affairs phone-in discussion”.
- β The increase is due to the transmission of more RTHK’s programmes on Channel 4 starting from mid-February 2021.
- ¶ It is not possible to estimate the figures for 2021–22 as audience reach, number of listeners, share of listening time and appreciation index per channel are subject to audiences’ response.
- Ω A new indicator as from 2021–22. It refers to the percentage of the total listening time of each channel among the 13 radio channels (i.e. seven radio channels of RTHK and six radio channels of commercial broadcasters) in Hong Kong.
- # A new indicator as from 2021–22. It refers to the satisfaction level among the audience who have listened to the corresponding channel in the past seven days.
- ψ The decrease in the number of community/educational projects organised in 2020–21 is due to the cancellation of some events arising from the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22

8 During 2021–22, RTHK will:

- continue to strengthen the identity of different channels;
- continue to strengthen the synergy between radio and TV services to enhance reach and public engagement;
- continue to nurture young broadcasting talents;
- continue to strengthen the promotion of CIBS to raise public awareness and attract more diversified applicants;
- continue to reach out to community groups through programme productions/collaborations;
- continue to explore collaborations with local and external partners;
- continue to enhance the accessibility of radio programmes in the multimedia environment;
- continue to plan for the construction of the new Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O in relation to radio services;
- continue to take forward relevant recommendations as set out in Report No. 71 of the Director of Audit on RTHK’s provision of programmes; and
- take forward relevant recommendations arising from the review on RTHK’s governance and management.

Programme (2): Public Affairs and General Television Programme

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Original)	2020–21 (Revised)	2021–22 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	556.1	581.2	577.5 (–0.6%)	524.5 (–9.2%)
				(or –9.8% on 2020–21 Original)

Aim

9 As the public service broadcaster, RTHK aims to inform, educate and entertain the general public through the provision of high quality TV programmes.

Head 160 — RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG

Brief Description

10 The TV Division of RTHK produces TV programmes and operates three Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) channels, namely:

- RTHK TV 31 – general programming on current affairs, education, arts and culture and minority interests, comprising in-house produced programmes, commissioned programmes, acquired programmes and education programmes;
- RTHK TV 32 – covering live events including local, Mainland and international news, press conferences, Legislative Council (LegCo) meetings, international and local sports and live events of public interest, and also providing the latest traffic information, weather forecasts, news updates and video segments; and
- RTHK TV 33 – relaying programmes of China Central Television Channel 1.

11 The key performance measures in respect of public affairs and general TV programme are:

Target

	Target	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Revised Estimate)	2021–22 (Plan)
total hours of transmission ^δ	26 280	26 280	26 280	26 280

δ There are three TV channels, with each channel transmitting 8 760 programme hours annually. As the same information under target and indicators is overlapped, the previous indicator “hours of transmission – DTT” will be deleted as from 2021–22.

Indicators

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Revised Estimate)	2021–22 (Estimate)
total hours of first-run programmes	1 775.6	1 741.5 ^μ	1 830.0
distribution of programme content according to the Charter of RTHK (hours) ^Δ			
to inform, educate and entertain members of the public through multi-media programming	220.9	375.4	350.0
to provide timely, impartial coverage of local, national and global events and issues	399.3	180.0	220.0
to deliver programming which contributes to the openness and cultural diversity of Hong Kong	523.7	863.4	620.0
to provide a platform for the Government and the community to discuss public policies and express views thereon without fear or favour	136.7	130.6	140.0
to serve a broad spectrum of audiences and cater to the needs of minority interest groups	495.0	192.1	500.0
major official public events			
no. of events	14	11	10
hours of events	15.4	16.7	15.0
hours of pool signal provided to media	431.9 ^ω	580.0 ^ω	510.0
audience reach (million) [□]			
RTHK TV 31	4.897	5.034	— ^Φ
RTHK TV 32	4.976	4.668	— ^Φ
average daily viewing minutes [‡]			
RTHK TV 31 programmes	—	55.4	— ^Φ
RTHK TV 32 programmes	—	49.0	— ^Φ
average prime time [§] TV ratings [□]			
RTHK TV 31	19 600	30 000	— ^Φ
RTHK TV 32	32 700	12 000	— ^Φ
highest TV ratings [□]			
RTHK TV 31	111 000	189 000	— ^Φ
RTHK TV 32	517 000	170 000	— ^Φ
appreciation Index (out of ten) ^Δ			
RTHK TV 31	—	7.5	— ^Φ
RTHK TV 32	—	7.2	— ^Φ
average for RTHK programmes	—	7.2	— ^Φ

Head 160 — RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Revised Estimate)	2021–22 (Estimate)
transmission hours on DTT per programme staff	125.7	122.8	122.8
cost per transmission hour on DTT (\$)	19,300	20,600	19,860
community/educational projects organised	65	52 τ	57
no. of substantiated complaints	6	5	—

- μ The decrease in total hours of first-run programmes in 2020–21 is due to the outbreak of COVID-19.
- Λ A new indicator as from 2021–22 to replace the indicator “distribution of content by programming nature”. The new indicator refers to the distribution of first-run programme content in terms of hours produced (excluding the relay of other broadcasting services) according to paragraph 5 of the Charter of RTHK to better reflect RTHK’s role as a public service broadcaster.
- ω “Hours of pool signal provided to media” should normally be around 510 but the decrease in 2019–20 was due to cancellation of LegCo meetings while the increase in 2020–21 is due to press conferences related to COVID-19.
- \boxtimes TVB Jade and ViuTV ceased broadcasting RTHK’s programmes starting from March and May 2020 respectively. The figures of live streaming, archive access and visits of RTHK’s programmes via “rthk.hk” (which are not included in audience reach and TV ratings) are reflected in the relevant indicators under Programme (4).
- Φ It is not possible to estimate the figures for 2021–22 as audience reach, average daily viewing minutes, TV ratings and appreciation index of RTHK TV programmes are subject to audiences’ response.
- \ddagger A new indicator as from 2021–22 to better reflect viewers’ daily consumption in terms of time spent on programmes produced for RTHK TV 31 and TV 32.
- \S “Prime time” refers to 1900 to 2300 hours.
- Δ A new indicator as from 2021–22. It refers to the satisfaction level among the audience who have watched the corresponding channel in the past seven days.
- τ The decrease in the number of community/educational projects organised in 2020–21 was due to the cancellation of some events arising from the outbreak of COVID-19.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22

12 During 2021–22, RTHK will:

- continue to produce programmes on civic education, youth and children;
- continue to promote civic awareness amongst the public and support the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region’s official events;
- continue to produce programmes and commission projects to encourage creativity;
- continue to explore collaborations with local and external partners;
- continue to produce programmes to reflect the daily life of the community, including the stories of the underprivileged and minorities;
- continue to cover public performances and produce programmes to promote public appreciation of arts, culture and sports;
- continue to plan for the construction of the new Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O in relation to TV services;
- continue to take forward relevant recommendations as set out in Report No. 71 of the Director of Audit on RTHK’s provision of programmes; and
- take forward relevant recommendations arising from the review on RTHK’s governance and management.

Programme (3): School Education Television Programme

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Original)	2020–21 (Revised)	2021–22 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	28.0	— \wedge	—	—

- \wedge In the light of the recommendation to review RTHK’s production of school education television (ETV) programmes given in Report No. 71 of the Director of Audit on RTHK’s provision of programmes, the annual financial provision to RTHK for the production of ETV programmes and Programme (3) has ceased with effect from 2020–21.

Head 160 — RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG

Programme (4): New Media

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Original)	2020–21 (Revised)	2021–22 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	45.2	44.8	41.6 (–7.1%)	42.1 (+1.2%)
				(or –6.0% on 2020–21 Original)

Aim

13 RTHK aims to extend its high quality radio and TV programming to the audiences by leveraging the different platforms in the new media.

Brief Description

14 The New Media services of RTHK provide different online platforms and contents for audiences, through the official website (i.e. “rthk.hk”), seven mobile applications featuring different services (namely “RTHK on the Go”, “RTHK Screen”, “RTHK Mine”, “RTHK News”, “RTHK Vox”, “RTHK Memory” and “Chinese History – the Flourishing Age”), and on social media (such as YouTube and Facebook).

15 The key performance measures in respect of new media are:

Target

	Target	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Revised Estimate)	2021–22 (Plan)
rthk.hk provision of 24-hour continuous streaming service (%).....	100	100	100	100

Indicators

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Revised Estimate)	2021–22 (Estimate)
rthk.hk daily live streaming (Radio and TV).....	3 642 000	4 100 000	4 300 000
daily archive access.....	884 000	850 000	900 000
daily visits	670 900	650 000	680 000
no. of podcasts available	30 325	30 000	30 000
audio programmes (%).....	57	55	55
video programmes (%).....	43	45	45
daily access of news pages.....	2 575 300	2 800 000	3 000 000

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021–22

16 During 2021–22, RTHK will:

- continue to develop synergy projects among TV, radio and new media;
- continue to enhance the user experience and accessibility of “rthk.hk” and the RTHK mobile applications;
- continue to improve the technical performance of “rthk.hk” for stable and faster access by local and overseas users;
- continue to plan for the construction of the new Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O in relation to new media services;
- continue to take forward relevant recommendations as set out in Report No. 71 of the Director of Audit on RTHK’s provision of programmes; and
- take forward relevant recommendations arising from the review on RTHK’s governance and management.

Head 160 — RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG

ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2019–20 (Actual) (\$m)	2020–21 (Original) (\$m)	2020–21 (Revised) (\$m)	2021–22 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Radio.....	412.4	420.3	423.8	428.6
(2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme.....	556.1	581.2	577.5	524.5
(3) School Education Television Programme.....	28.0	—	—	—
(4) New Media.....	45.2	44.8	41.6	42.1
	1,041.7	1,046.3	1,042.9 (-0.3%)	995.2 (-4.6%)
				(or -4.9% on 2020–21 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2021–22 is \$4.8 million (1.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020–21. This is mainly due to the increase in operating expenses.

Programme (2)

Provision for 2021–22 is \$53.0 million (9.2%) lower than the revised estimate for 2020–21. This is mainly due to the decrease in operating expenses and capital expenditure.

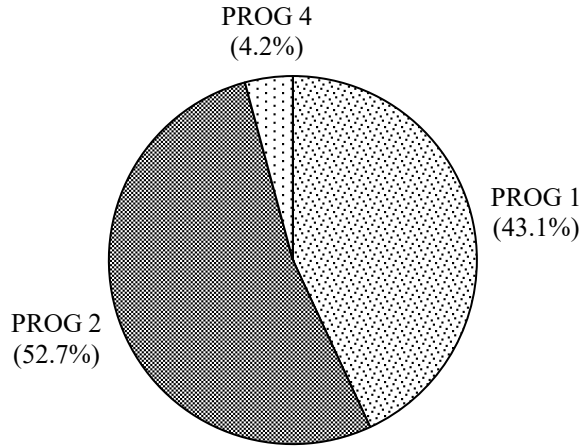
Programme (3)

In the light of the recommendation to review RTHK's production of school ETV programmes given in Report No. 71 of the Director of Audit on RTHK's provision of programmes, the annual financial provision to RTHK for the production of ETV programmes and Programme (3) has ceased with effect from 2020–21.

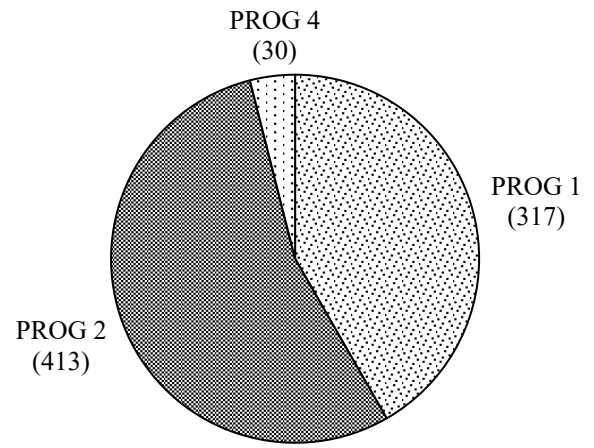
Programme (4)

Provision for 2021–22 is \$0.5 million (1.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020–21. This is mainly due to the increase in operating expenses.

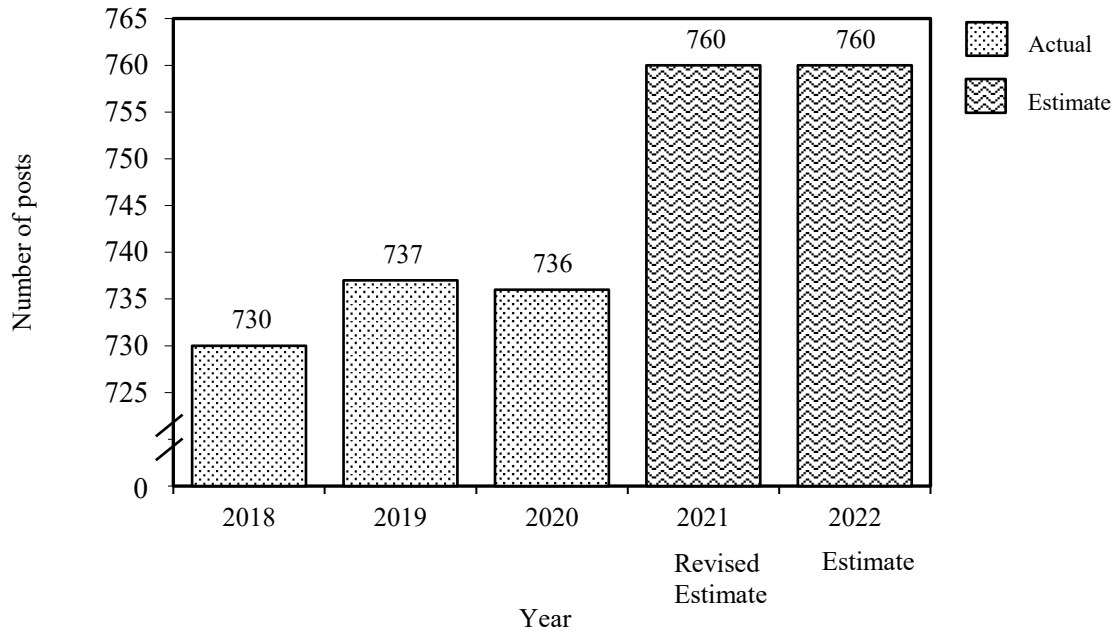
Allocation of provision to programmes (2021-22)



Staff by programme (as at 31 March 2022)



Changes in the size of the establishment (as at 31 March)



Head 160 — RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2019–20	Approved estimate 2020–21	Revised estimate 2020–21	Estimate 2021–22	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	972,144	977,811	969,983	939,515
	Total, Recurrent.....	972,144	977,811	969,983	939,515
Non-Recurrent					
	General non-recurrent	8,788	—	—	—
	Total, Non-Recurrent.....	8,788	—	—	—
	Total, Operating Account	980,932	977,811	969,983	939,515
Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
603	Plant, vehicles and equipment.....	10,349	12,000	16,387	6,267
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	50,370	56,529	56,529	49,380
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	60,719	68,529	72,916	55,647
	Total, Capital Account.....	60,719	68,529	72,916	55,647
	Total Expenditure	1,041,651	1,046,340	1,042,899	995,162

Head 160 — RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG

Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2021–22 for the salaries and expenses of the Radio Television Hong Kong is \$995,162,000. This represents a decrease of \$47,737,000 against the revised estimate for 2020–21 and \$46,489,000 against the actual expenditure in 2019–20.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$939,515,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Radio Television Hong Kong.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2021 will be 760 posts. No change in establishment is expected in 2021–22. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2021–22, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$486,619,000.

4 An analysis of the financial provision under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is as follows:

	2019–20 (Actual) (\$'000)	2020–21 (Original) (\$'000)	2020–21 (Revised) (\$'000)	2021–22 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	434,878	455,880	446,987	449,908
- Allowances	9,025	8,800	10,531	12,104
- Job-related allowances.....	602	1,180	645	745
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	2,382	2,007	1,696	1,201
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	29,043	37,978	34,373	41,396
- Disturbance allowance.....	20	25	—	9
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	496,194	461,941	466,651	424,152
Other Charges				
- Community Involvement Broadcasting Service.....	—	10,000	9,100	10,000
	972,144	977,811	969,983	939,515

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

5 Provision of \$49,380,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents a decrease of \$7,149,000 (12.6%) against the revised estimate for 2020–21. This reflects a decrease in the cash flow requirements for the procurement of minor plant and equipment in 2021–22.

Head 160 — RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG

Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2020	Revised estimated expenditure for 2020–21	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Capital Account</i>						
603		<i>Plant, vehicles and equipment</i>				
	801	Replacement of transmission system for relocation of Digital Terrestrial Television frequency channel	20,000	—	9,000	11,000
	825	Establishment of Fill-in Stations for the Digital Terrestrial Television service of Radio Television Hong Kong.....	64,200	52,146	6,400	5,654
		Total	<u>84,200</u>	<u>52,146</u>	<u>15,400</u>	<u>16,654</u>