

Head 160 — RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG

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

Estimate 2022–23 **\$1,080.2m**

Establishment ceiling 2022–23 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 752 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2022 rising by eight posts to 760 posts as at 31 March 2023 **\$492.4m**

In addition, there will be an estimated eight directorate posts as at 31 March 2022 and as at 31 March 2023.

Commitment balance..... **\$95.4m**

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

<p>Programme (1) Radio</p> <p>Programme (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme</p> <p>Programme (3) New Media</p>	<p>These programmes contribute to Policy Area 17: Information Technology and Broadcasting (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development).</p>
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Detail

Programme (1): Radio

	2020–21 (Actual)	2021–22 (Original)	2021–22 (Revised)	2022–23 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	428.3	428.6	422.1 (–1.5%)	424.1 (+0.5%)
				(or –1.0% on 2021–22 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 broadcast on selected radio channels and RTHK TV 31.

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

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7 The key performance measures in respect of radio are:

Target^

	Target	2020–21 (Actual)	2021–22 (Revised Estimate)	2022–23 (Plan)
total hours of transmission	61 320	61 320	61 320	61 320

Indicators^

	2020–21 (Actual)	2021–22 (Revised Estimate)	2022–23 (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	21 990	21 990	21 990
to provide timely, impartial coverage of local, national and global events and issues	8 800	9 050φ	9 050
to deliver programming which contributes to the openness and cultural diversity of Hong Kong	7 334	9 820β	9 820
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 400φ	2 400
to serve a broad spectrum of audiences and cater to the needs of minority interest groups	9 300	9 300	9 300
hours of CIBS programmes produced.....	884	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 (%)			
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.....	378.5	369.4	369.4
cost per transmission hour excluding Newsroom and CIBS (\$)			
Channel 1	7,910	7,560	7,550
Channel 2	5,540	5,750	5,570
Channel 3	3,610	3,330	3,340
Channel 4	3,170	3,440	3,460
Channel 5	3,180	3,070	3,170
Channel 6	11	11	11
Channel 7	2,250	2,280	2,280

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	2020–21 (Actual)	2021–22 (Revised Estimate)	2022–23 (Estimate)
cost per listener (\$)	131.8	—¶	—¶
community/educational projects organised	59	100ψ	100ψ
no. of substantiated complaints	12	9	—

- Λ Pursuant to the recommendations of the review on RTHK's governance and management, a new performance measurement and evaluation framework is being developed. The target and indicators will be suitably revised and adopted as from 2023–24 to more appropriately reflect RTHK's level of performance in respect of its public purposes, mission and programming objectives under the Charter of RTHK.
- φ The total number of transmission hours for six radio channels (excluding Channel 6) is 52 560. The slight decrease in programme content “to provide a platform for the Government and the community to discuss public policies and express views thereon without fear or favour” is offset by the increase in programme content “to provide timely, impartial coverage of local, national and global events and issues” in 2021–22.
- β The increase is due to the transmission of more RTHK's programmes on Channel 4 starting from mid-February 2021.
- ¶ The figures are based on previously commissioned surveys. In order to reflect and measure RTHK's performance under the new performance measurement and evaluation framework of the review, the surveys are being comprehensively re-designed and hence it is not possible to estimate the figures for 2021–22 and 2022–23.
- ψ The increase in the number of community/educational projects organised in 2021–22 and 2022–23 reflects RTHK's dedicated efforts in promoting the understanding of our nation and the concept of “One Country, Two Systems”, as well as serving the community and the needs of minority interest groups. It is also due to the reopening of more facilities and venues for organisation of projects and performances.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022–23

8 During 2022–23, RTHK will:

- produce a series of special programmes to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR);
- continue to provide high-quality radio services to fulfil the public purposes and mission of RTHK as set out in the Charter of RTHK;
- continue to strengthen the synergy between radio and TV services to enhance reach and public engagement;
- continue to nurture broadcasting talents;
- continue to strengthen the promotion of CIBS to attract more new and diversified applicants, and reach out to community groups through programme productions/collaborations with local and external partners;
- continue to plan for the construction of the new Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O in relation to radio services; and
- continue to take forward relevant recommendations arising from the review on RTHK's governance and management.

Programme (2): Public Affairs and General Television Programme

	2020–21 (Actual)	2021–22 (Original)	2021–22 (Revised)	2022–23 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	568.0	524.5	544.3 (+3.8%)	617.5 (+13.4%)
				(or +17.7% on 2021–22 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.

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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 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	2020–21 (Actual)	2021–22 (Revised Estimate)	2022–23 (Plan)
total hours of transmission	26 280	26 280	26 280	26 280

Indicators^

	2020–21 (Actual)	2021–22 (Revised Estimate)	2022–23 (Estimate)
total hours of first-run programmes◇	5 108.6	6 394.1μ	6 522.0μ
distribution of programme content according to the Charter of RTHK (hours)			
to inform, educate and entertain members of the public through multi-media programming	1 017.8	1 198.6	1 214.0
to provide timely, impartial coverage of local, national and global events and issues	2 297.4	2 496.3	2 546.2
to deliver programming which contributes to the openness and cultural diversity of Hong Kong	793.8	979.4	999.0
to provide a platform for the Government and the community to discuss public policies and express views thereon without fear or favour.....	741.8	722.0	745.0
to serve a broad spectrum of audiences and cater to the needs of minority interest groups	257.8	997.8λ	1 017.8
major official public events			
no. of events	11	42μ	42
hours of events	16.4	62.5μ	62.5
hours of pool signal provided to mediaΨ.....	798.9	524.2	550.0
audience reach (million)			
RTHK TV 31□	5.034	—¶	—¶
RTHK TV 32□	4.668	—¶	—¶
average daily viewing minutes			
RTHK TV 31 programmes	55.4	—¶	—¶
RTHK TV 32 programmes	49.0	—¶	—¶
average prime time§ TV ratings‡			
RTHK TV 31□	30 000	—	—
RTHK TV 32□	12 000	—	—
highest TV ratings‡			
RTHK TV 31□	189 000	—	—
RTHK TV 32□	170 000	—	—
appreciation Index (out of ten)			
RTHK TV 31	7.5	—¶	—¶
RTHK TV 32	7.2	—¶	—¶
average for RTHK programmes.....	7.2	—¶	—¶
transmission hours on DTT per programme staff	125.1	128.8	125.7
cost per transmission hour on DTT (\$)	20,240	20,600	23,100

	2020–21 (Actual)	2021–22 (Revised Estimate)	2022–23 (Estimate)
community/educational projects organised.....	20	20	20
no. of substantiated complaints	9	2	—

- Λ Pursuant to the recommendations of the review on RTHK’s governance and management, a new performance measurement and evaluation framework is being developed. The target and indicators will be suitably revised and adopted as from 2023–24 to more appropriately reflect RTHK’s level of performance in respect of its public purposes, mission and programming objectives under the Charter of RTHK.
- ◇ To better reflect the performance of RTHK’s TV programmes, total hours of first-run programmes on RTHK TV 31 and TV 32 are included.
- μ The increase in total hours of first-run programmes and number and hours of major official public events reflects the provision of more Mainland-related programmes to promote understanding of our nation and the concept of “One Country, Two Systems”.
- λ The increase in hours is due to the provision of more audio description, sign language and other language programmes, etc. to cater to the needs of minority interest groups.
- Ψ The number of hours of pool signal provided to media depends on the actual number of special events and press conferences held, such as the press conferences held by the Government to disseminate important information to the public.
- ¶ The figures are based on previously commissioned surveys. In order to reflect and measure RTHK’s performance under the new performance measurement and evaluation framework of the review, the surveys are being comprehensively re-designed and hence it is not possible to estimate the figures for 2021–22 and 2022–23.
- ✕ 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 (3).
- § “Prime time” refers to 1900 to 2300 hours.
- ⊕ According to the Charter, as a public service broadcaster, RTHK should provide TV services in areas not adequately provided by commercial broadcasters, which differentiates RTHK from commercial broadcasters in terms of programming. RTHK’s TV services need to serve a broad spectrum of audiences and cater to the needs of minority interest groups, to promote education and learning, to provide a platform to facilitate community participation, and to stimulate creativity and local original contents. The conventional TV ratings are therefore not a major indicator for RTHK’s performance, and these indicators will be deleted as from 2022–23.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022–23

12 During 2022–23, RTHK will:

- produce a series of special programmes to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR;
- strengthen the network’s distribution capabilities, with the aim of providing more diversified programmes and presenting more programmes with national perspectives;
- continue to provide high-quality TV services to fulfil the public purposes and mission of RTHK as set out in the Charter of RTHK;
- continue to explore collaborations with local and external partners;
- continue to nurture broadcasting talents;
- continue to plan for the construction of the new Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O in relation to TV services; and
- continue to take forward relevant recommendations arising from the review on RTHK’s governance and management.

Programme (3): New Media

	2020–21 (Actual)	2021–22 (Original)	2021–22 (Revised)	2022–23 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	44.7	42.1	37.6 (–10.7%)	38.6 (+2.7%)
				(or –8.3% on 2021–22 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.

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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”), eight mobile applications featuring different services (namely “RTHK on the Go”, “RTHK Screen”, “RTHK Mine”, “RTHK News”, “RTHK Vox”, “RTHK Memory”, “Chinese History – the Flourishing Age” and “RTHK Audio Description”), and on social media (such as YouTube and Facebook).

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

Target

	Target	2020–21 (Actual)	2021–22 (Revised Estimate)	2022–23 (Plan)
rthk.hk provision of 24-hour continuous streaming service (%)	100	100	100	100

Indicators

	2020–21 (Actual)	2021–22 (Revised Estimate)	2022–23 (Estimate)
rthk.hk daily live streaming (Radio and TV).....	4 173 000	4 200 000	4 300 000
daily archive access.....	788 000	800 000	820 000
daily visits	588 200	550 000	580 000
no. of podcasts available	26 978	25 000	25 000
audio programmes (%).....	58	58	58
video programmes (%).....	42	42	42
daily access of news pages.....	2 686 300	2 200 000	2 300 000

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022–23

16 During 2022–23, RTHK will continue to:

- develop synergy among TV, radio and new media;
- provide high-quality new media services to fulfil the public purposes and mission of RTHK as set out in the Charter of RTHK;
- enhance the user experience and accessibility of “rthk.hk” and the RTHK mobile applications;
- improve the technical performance of “rthk.hk” for stable and faster access by local and overseas users;
- plan for the construction of the new Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O in relation to new media services; and
- take forward relevant recommendations arising from the review on RTHK’s governance and management.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2020–21 (Actual) (\$m)	2021–22 (Original) (\$m)	2021–22 (Revised) (\$m)	2022–23 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Radio.....	428.3	428.6	422.1	424.1
(2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme.....	568.0	524.5	544.3	617.5
(3) New Media.....	44.7	42.1	37.6	38.6
	1,041.0	995.2	1,004.0 (+0.9%)	1,080.2 (+7.6%)
				(or +8.5% on 2021–22 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2022–23 is \$2.0 million (0.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to the increase in operating expenses.

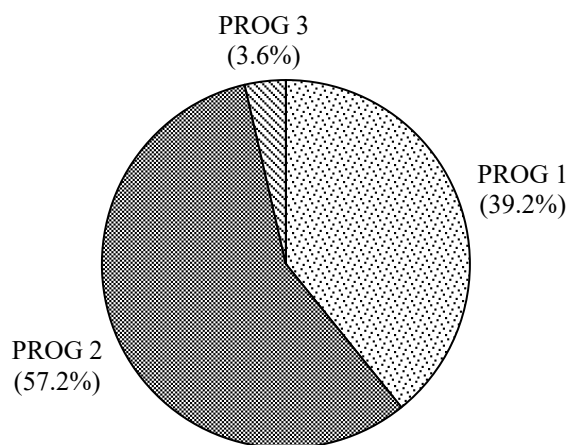
Programme (2)

Provision for 2022–23 is \$73.2 million (13.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to the increase in operating expenses and capital expenditure as a result of the planned update of transmission and broadcast systems. In addition, there will be an increase of eight posts in 2022–23.

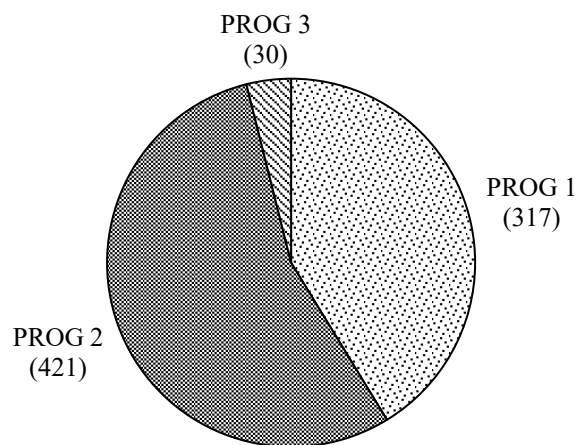
Programme (3)

Provision for 2022–23 is \$1.0 million (2.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to the increase in operating expenses.

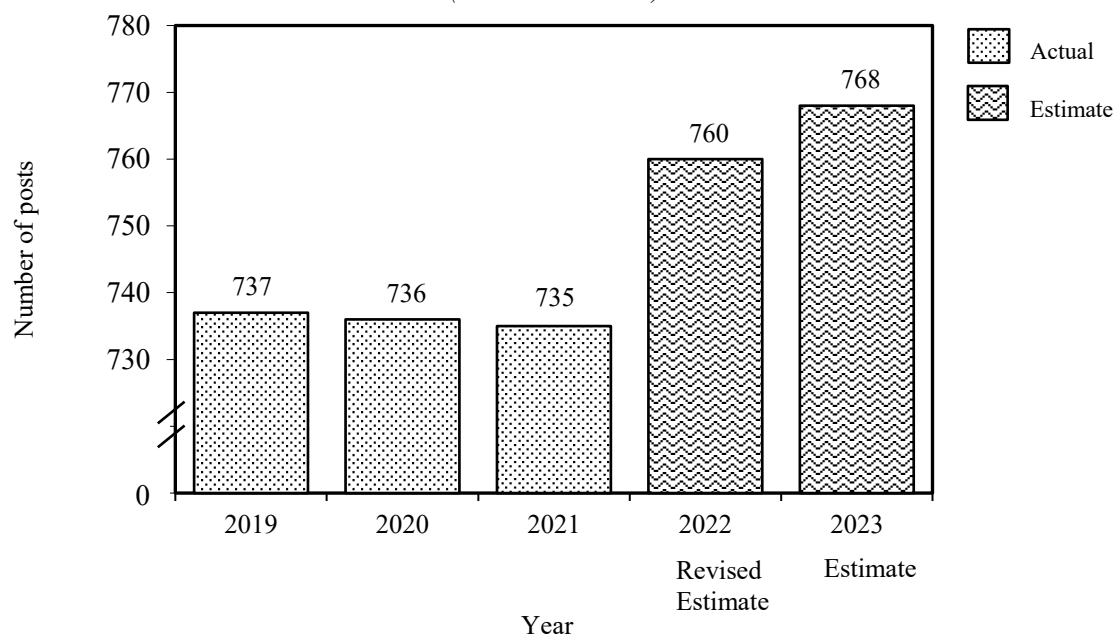
*Allocation of provision
to programmes
(2022-23)*



*Staff by programme
(as at 31 March 2023)*



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



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Sub-head (Code)		Actual expenditure 2020–21	Approved estimate 2021–22	Revised estimate 2021–22	Estimate 2022–23
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Operating Account					
	Recurrent				
000	Operational expenses	969,796	939,515	948,354	985,062
	Total, Recurrent	969,796	939,515	948,354	985,062
	Total, Operating Account	969,796	939,515	948,354	985,062
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Capital Account					
	Plant, Equipment and Works				
603	Plant, vehicles and equipment	15,635	6,267	6,267	45,333
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)	55,543	49,380	49,380	49,783
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works	71,178	55,647	55,647	95,116
	Total, Capital Account	71,178	55,647	55,647	95,116
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	Total Expenditure	1,040,974	995,162	1,004,001	1,080,178
		<u>1,040,974</u>	<u>995,162</u>	<u>1,004,001</u>	<u>1,080,178</u>

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2022–23 for the salaries and expenses of the Radio Television Hong Kong is \$1,080,178,000. This represents an increase of \$76,177,000 over the revised estimate for 2021–22 and \$39,204,000 over the actual expenditure in 2020–21.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$985,062,000 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 2022 will be 760 posts. It is expected that there will be a net increase of eight posts in 2022–23. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2022–23, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$492,392,000.

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

	2020–21 (Actual) (\$'000)	2021–22 (Original) (\$'000)	2021–22 (Revised) (\$'000)	2022–23 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	447,129	449,908	432,245	429,463
- Allowances	9,739	12,104	11,943	17,300
- Job-related allowances.....	953	745	1,053	880
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	1,680	1,201	1,176	783
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	34,332	41,396	36,197	41,952
- Disturbance allowance.....	—	9	—	9
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	466,033	424,152	455,963	484,675
Other Charges				
- Community Involvement Broadcasting Service	9,930	10,000	9,777	10,000
	969,796	939,515	948,354	985,062

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Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2021	Revised estimated expenditure for 2021–22	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	8,861	3,060	8,079
	804	Update of transmission system at existing Digital Terrestrial Television stationsΩ	67,889Ω	—	—	67,889
	805	Update of television broadcast systems at Television HouseΩ	16,350Ω	—	—	16,350
	825	Establishment of Fill-in Stations for the Digital Terrestrial Television service of Radio Television Hong Kong.....	64,200	57,933	3,207	3,060
		Total	168,439	66,794	6,267	95,378

Ω This is a new item, funding for which is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2022.