

Head 160 — RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG

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

Estimate 2024–25	\$1,261.7m
Establishment ceiling 2024–25 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 759 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2024 reducing by five posts to 754 posts as at 31 March 2025	\$522.9m
In addition, there will be an estimated eight directorate posts as at 31 March 2024 and as at 31 March 2025.	
Commitment balance	\$195.6m

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) New Media	

Detail

Programme (1): Radio

	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Original)	2023–24 (Revised)	2024–25 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	437.5	471.0	476.7 (+1.2%)	476.6 (—)
				(or +1.2% on 2023–24 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 eight 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;
- Channel 7 (Putonghua and other languages) – general programming, news and finance, and Community Involvement Broadcasting Service (CIBS); and
- Channel 8 (Cantonese and Putonghua) – relay of Radio the Greater Bay of the China Media Group (CMG).

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 RTHK's performance is evaluated under eight Programme Production Goals (PPGs), which are drawn up by summarising the public purposes, mission and programming objectives stipulated in the Charter of RTHK. The list of PPGs is as follows:

- PPG 1 – promote understanding of our community, our nation and the world through provision of accurate, impartial and objective news and public affairs programmes;
- PPG 2 – promote understanding of the concept of “One Country, Two Systems” and engender a sense of citizenship and national identity;
- PPG 3 – provide a platform for the free exchange of views on public policies without fear or favour;
- PPG 4 – provide a platform to support and promote community participation in broadcasting, such that participants can convey their creation concepts and intended messages;
- PPG 5 – encourage social inclusion and pluralism, reflect the diversity of Hong Kong and other places, encourage integration, inject positive energy into society, and cater to the needs of minority interest groups;
- PPG 6 – promote education and learning including e-learning;
- PPG 7 – stimulate creativity and originality with a view to promoting arts and cultural activities and nurturing talents; and
- PPG 8 – provide informative and entertaining programmes to broaden audiences' horizons and for their leisure and relaxation.

8 The key performance measures in respect of radio are:

Targets

	Target	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Revised Estimate)	2024–25 (Plan)
Transmission hours of programmes (on Channels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7) by PPG				
PPG 1	9 150	9 150	9 370§	9 150
PPG 2	1 100	1 030	1 130	1 100
PPG 3	2 400	2 400	2 220γ	2 400
PPG 4	910	910	910	910
PPG 5	5 780	5 780	5 700	5 780
PPG 6	2 150	2 150	2 180	2 150
PPG 7	12 540	12 550	12 730γ	12 540
PPG 8	18 530	18 590	18 320§	18 530
<i>Total</i>	52 560	52 560	52 560	52 560
RTHK audience who listen to programmes under each PPG (%/million)				
PPG 1	34.0%	—¶	36.4% / 1.1	34.0% / 1.0
PPG 2	5.0%	—¶	8.3% / 0.3	5.0% / 0.2
PPG 3	12.0%	—¶	10.0% / 0.3	12.0% / 0.4
PPG 5	15.0%	—¶	26.0% / 0.8	15.0% / 0.5
PPG 6	9.0%	—¶	23.5% / 0.7	9.0% / 0.3
PPG 7	16.0%	—¶	35.5% / 1.0	16.0% / 0.5
PPG 8	52.0%	—¶	39.4% / 1.2	52.0% / 1.5
RTHK audience who agree that RTHK has achieved the PPG (%)				
PPG 1	85	—¶	98	85
PPG 2	85.0	—¶	94.8	85.0
PPG 3	85	—¶	96	85
PPG 5	85.0	—¶	96.8	85.0
PPG 6	85.0	—¶	94.5	85.0
PPG 7	85.0	—¶	95.7	85.0
PPG 8	85.0	—¶	97.3	85.0

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	Target	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Revised Estimate)	2024–25 (Plan)
Public awareness level of CIBS (PPG 4) (%)	50	—¶	54	50
CIBS applicants who agree that RTHK provides for public participation in broadcasting (PPG 4) (%)	95.0	98.4	98.3	95.0

§ The increase in transmission hours under PPG 1 was the result of relay of events such as the 2023 National Security Education Day Seminars, the production and broadcast of a current affairs programme series on the Basic Law, and the commitment to promoting the 2023 District Council Ordinary Election including the broadcast of 88 election forums. The increase was largely offset by the decrease in informative and entertaining programmes (PPG 8).

γ The slight decrease in transmission hours for programmes to provide a platform for the free exchange of views on public policies (PPG 3) is offset by the increase in those for programmes to stimulate creativity and originality (PPG 7).

Indicators

	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Revised Estimate)	2024–25 (Estimate)
Overall appreciation index of programme(s) by PPG (out of 5)			
PPG 1	—¶	4.2	4.0
PPG 2	—¶	4	4
PPG 3	—¶	4.1	4.0
PPG 4	—¶	4.5	4.0
PPG 5	—¶	4.1	4.0
PPG 6	—¶	4.1	4.0
PPG 7	—¶	4.2	4.0
PPG 8	—¶	4.1	4.0
Cost per transmission hour devoted to programmes (on Channels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7) by PPG (\$)			
PPG 1 [^]	18,270	23,307	23,843
PPG 2	4,193	3,879	3,977
PPG 3	8,649	6,292	5,818
PPG 4	22,103	26,001	25,991
PPG 5	6,313	5,669	5,589
PPG 6	8,543	6,416	6,505
PPG 7	4,389	4,064	4,118
PPG 8	5,503	5,020	4,955
CIBS applications received (no.) and first-time CIBS applicants (PPG 4) (%)	348 / 57%	330 / 56%	330 / 56%
CIBS page views (PPG 4)	363 508 ^ε	140 000	140 000
Outreach projects organised (PPG 8)	123	125	125
No. of substantiated complaint cases dealt with by the Communications Authority (CA)	0	1	—

¶ Pursuant to the recommendations of the review on RTHK's governance and management, a new performance measurement and evaluation framework has been fully implemented with effect from 2023–24 using data from the re-designed surveys for setting new performance targets and indicators. It is therefore not possible to provide the figures for 2022–23.

[^] The cost covers production of news content on Radio, TV and the new media.

^ε The CIBS page views hit an exceptional peak in the first quarter and second quarter of 2022–23 when an online quiz was conducted with give-away prizes every day with a view to promoting awareness of CIBS while also boosting public morale during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024–25

9 During 2024–25, RTHK will:

- continue to provide high-quality radio services to fulfil the public purposes and mission of RTHK as set out in the Charter of RTHK, and enhance its radio programming lineup with a view to strengthening the channel positioning and better serving the target audiences;
- expand the coverage of Channel 8 from 60 per cent in December 2023 to 99 per cent by end-2024;

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- 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 attract more new and diversified applicants;
- continue to explore collaborations with local, Mainland and external partners; and
- continue to plan for the construction of the new Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O in relation to radio services.

Programme (2): Public Affairs and General Television Programme

	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Original)	2023–24 (Revised)	2024–25 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	614.7	678.2	677.1 (–0.2%)	741.8 (+9.6%)
				(or +9.4% on 2023–24 Original)

Aim

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

Brief Description

11 The TV Division of RTHK produces TV programmes and operates five Digital Terrestrial Television 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;
- RTHK TV 33 – relaying programmes of China Central Television Channel 1;
- RTHK TV 34 – relaying programmes of China Global Television Network Documentary; and
- RTHK TV 35 – relaying programmes of China Global Television Network.

12 RTHK’s performance is evaluated under seven of the eight PPGs drawn up by summarising the public purposes, mission and programming objectives stipulated in the Charter of RTHK. The list of PPGs applicable to TV services is as follows:

- PPG 1 – promote understanding of our community, our nation and the world through provision of accurate, impartial and objective news and public affairs programmes;
- PPG 2 – promote understanding of the concept of “One Country, Two Systems” and engender a sense of citizenship and national identity;
- PPG 3 – provide a platform for the free exchange of views on public policies without fear or favour;
- PPG 5 – encourage social inclusion and pluralism, reflect the diversity of Hong Kong and other places, encourage integration, inject positive energy into society, and cater to the needs of minority interest groups;
- PPG 6 – promote education and learning including e-learning;
- PPG 7 – stimulate creativity and originality with a view to promoting arts and cultural activities and nurturing talents; and
- PPG 8 – provide informative and entertaining programmes to broaden audiences’ horizons and for their leisure and relaxation.

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

Targets

	Target	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Revised Estimate)	2024–25 (Plan)
Transmission hours of programmes (on RTHK TV 31 & 32) by PPG				
PPG 1	1 256	3 252	2 662 ^Ψ	2 604
PPG 2	2 514	2 608	3 038 ^α	2 884
PPG 3	440	479	460	440
PPG 5	910	725	608 ^α	608
PPG 6	890	770	502 ^α	500
PPG 7	500	479	666 ^Φ	662
PPG 8	11 010	9 207	9 584 ^Ψ	9 822
<i>Total</i>	17 520	17 520	17 520	17 520
RTHK audience who watch programmes under each PPG (%/million)				
PPG 1	60.0%	— [¶]	73.2% / 4.4	60.0% / 3.5
PPG 2	55.0%	— [¶]	40.1% / 2.4	55.0% / 3.2
PPG 3	60.0%	— [¶]	52.9% / 3.2	60.0% / 3.5
PPG 5	60.0%	— [¶]	63.7% / 3.9	60.0% / 3.5
PPG 6	55.0%	— [¶]	54.1% / 3.3	55.0% / 3.2
PPG 7	55.0%	— [¶]	59.7% / 3.6	55.0% / 3.2
PPG 8	60.0%	— [¶]	72.9% / 4.4	60.0% / 3.5
RTHK audience who agree that RTHK has achieved the PPG (%)				
PPG 1	70.0	— [¶]	83.7	70.0
PPG 2	70.0	— [¶]	68.7	70.0
PPG 3	70.0	— [¶]	75.2	70.0
PPG 5	70.0	— [¶]	89.7	70.0
PPG 6	70	— [¶]	88	70
PPG 7	70.0	— [¶]	86.9	70.0
PPG 8	70.0	— [¶]	89.9	70.0

^Ψ The increase in transmission hours under PPG 1 when compared to the target was due to the relay of events relating to the 2023 National Security Education Day, the Basic Law, the Constitution, and the 2023 District Council Ordinary Election. The increase was offset by the decrease in informative and entertaining programmes under PPG 8.

^α The increase in transmission hours under PPG 2 was due to increase in programmes and relay of events relating to the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative and the broadcast of programmes of CMG.

^α The decrease in transmission hours under PPG 5 and PPG 6 was offset by the increase in transmission hours under PPG 2 and PPG 7.

^Φ The increase in transmission hours under PPG 7 was due to the broadcast of more local and international performances in support of the Government's campaign to draw more cultural activities to Hong Kong.

Indicators

	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Revised Estimate)	2024–25 (Estimate)
Total hours of first-run programmes	6 534	5 950 [#]	6 000
Overall appreciation index of programme(s) by PPG (out of 5)			
PPG 1	— [¶]	3.6	3.5
PPG 2	— [¶]	3.3	3.5
PPG 3	— [¶]	3.4	3.5
PPG 5	— [¶]	3.7	3.5
PPG 6	— [¶]	3.7	3.5
PPG 7	— [¶]	3.6	3.5
PPG 8	— [¶]	3.8	3.5
Cost per transmission hour devoted to programmes (on RTHK TV 31 & 32) by PPG (\$)			
PPG 1	25,410	34,440	38,865
PPG 2	50,707	36,213	42,110
PPG 3	11,504	66,435	76,670
PPG 5	136,805	150,789	166,456

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	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Revised Estimate)	2024–25 (Estimate)
PPG 6	57,190	36,526	40,482
PPG 7	57,517	100,949	112,110
PPG 8	17,352	21,045	22,669
Major official public events on TV (PPG 1)			
no. of events	40	39	40
hours of events	63.1	64.0	68.0
hours of pool signal provided to media.....	632.1	465.0 τ	540.0
Outreach projects organised (PPG 8).....	21	30 Δ	25
No. of substantiated complaint cases dealt with by the CA	0	0	—

¶ Pursuant to the recommendations of the review on RTHK's governance and management, a new performance measurement and evaluation framework has been fully implemented with effect from 2023–24 using data from the re-designed surveys for setting new performance targets and indicators. It is therefore not possible to provide the figures for 2022–23.

The decrease was mainly due to the reduction in COVID-19 related programmes.

τ The decrease was due to the reduction of pool signal relating to COVID-19 and the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region related events, and shorter duration of LegCo meetings.

Δ The increase was due to more projects to engage young talents from schools and tertiary institutions such as the Media Education - Nurture Talent Scheme, career talks in tertiary institutions and collaboration with the Vocational Training Council.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024–25

14 During 2024–25, RTHK will:

- strengthen co-production of TV programmes with Mainland broadcasters that foster the affection for our country and to broadcast no less than two co-produced programmes in Hong Kong and the Mainland within 2024;
- promote sports development by rendering full support for the production, promotion and live broadcast of the 15th National Games, the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympic Games in 2025;
- continue to provide high-quality TV services with the application of new technologies to fulfil the public purposes and mission of RTHK as set out in the Charter of RTHK;
- continue to strengthen the network's distribution capabilities, with the aim of providing more diversified programmes and presenting more programmes with national perspectives to strengthen social cohesion and public understanding (especially young people);
- continue to provide support to youth development initiative;
- continue to explore collaborations with local, Mainland and external partners;
- continue to nurture broadcasting talents; and
- continue to plan for the construction of the new Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O in relation to TV services.

Programme (3): New Media

	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Original)	2023–24 (Revised)	2024–25 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	34.4	43.6	41.9 (–3.9%)	43.3 (+3.3%)
				(or –0.7% on 2023–24 Original)

Aim

15 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

16 The New Media services of RTHK provide different online platforms and contents for audiences, through the official website (i.e. “rthk.hk”), six mobile applications featuring different services (namely “RTHK on the Go”, “RTHK TV”, “RTHK Radio”, “RTHK News”, “RTHK Chinese History – the Flourishing Age” and “RTHK Audio Description”), and on social media (such as YouTube, Facebook and Instagram).

17 In 2023, the RTHK Official YouTube Channel has over 1 097 000 subscribers and the viewership of the top 20 RTHK videos on the channel is 8 350 000 approximately.

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

Target

	Target	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Revised Estimate)	2024–25 (Plan)
rthk.hk				
provision of 24-hour continuous streaming service (%).....	100	100	100	100

Indicators

	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Revised Estimate)	2024–25 (Estimate)
rthk.hk			
Daily live streaming (Radio and TV) ('000).....	3 945	3 836 ^ω	3 700^ω
Daily archive access ('000).....	761	632 ^ω	550^ω
Daily visits ('000)	543	538	530
No. of podcasts available ('000)	23.6	24.8	24.0
Audio programmes (%).....	58	60	60
Video programmes (%).....	42	40	40
Daily access of news pages ('000).....	1 694.6	1 472.4	1 300.0

^ω The decrease in the number of live streams and archives is due to increased restrictions of acquired programmes.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024–25

19 During 2024–25, RTHK will:

- enhance the Search Engine Optimisation performance, user experience and accessibility of “rthk.hk” and the RTHK mobile applications;
- make use of social media/applications with enhanced digital marketing strategy to publicise RTHK programmes/activities/projects;
- continue to develop synergy among TV, radio and new media;
- continue to provide high-quality new media services with the application of new information technology and artificial intelligence technology to fulfil the public purposes and mission of RTHK as set out in the Charter of RTHK; and
- continue to plan for the construction of the new Broadcasting House in Tseung Kwan O in relation to new media services.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

	2022–23 (Actual) (\$m)	2023–24 (Original) (\$m)	2023–24 (Revised) (\$m)	2024–25 (Estimate) (\$m)
Programme				
(1) Radio.....	437.5	471.0	476.7	476.6
(2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme.....	614.7	678.2	677.1	741.8
(3) New Media.....	34.4	43.6	41.9	43.3
	1,086.6	1,192.8	1,195.7 (+0.2%)	1,261.7 (+5.5%)
				(or +5.8% on 2023–24 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2024–25 is comparable to the revised estimate for 2023–24. This is due to the increase in operating expenses, offset by the decrease in capital expenditure. There will be a decrease of three posts in 2024–25.

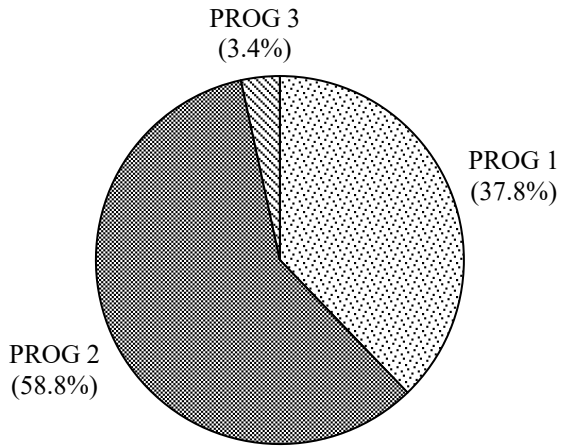
Programme (2)

Provision for 2024–25 is \$64.7 million (9.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2023–24. This is mainly due to the increase in operating expenses and capital expenditure. There will be a decrease of two posts in 2024–25.

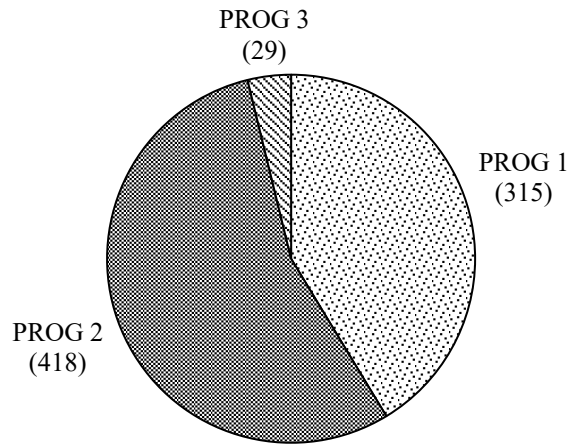
Programme (3)

Provision for 2024–25 is \$1.4 million (3.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2023–24. This is mainly due to the increase in capital expenditure.

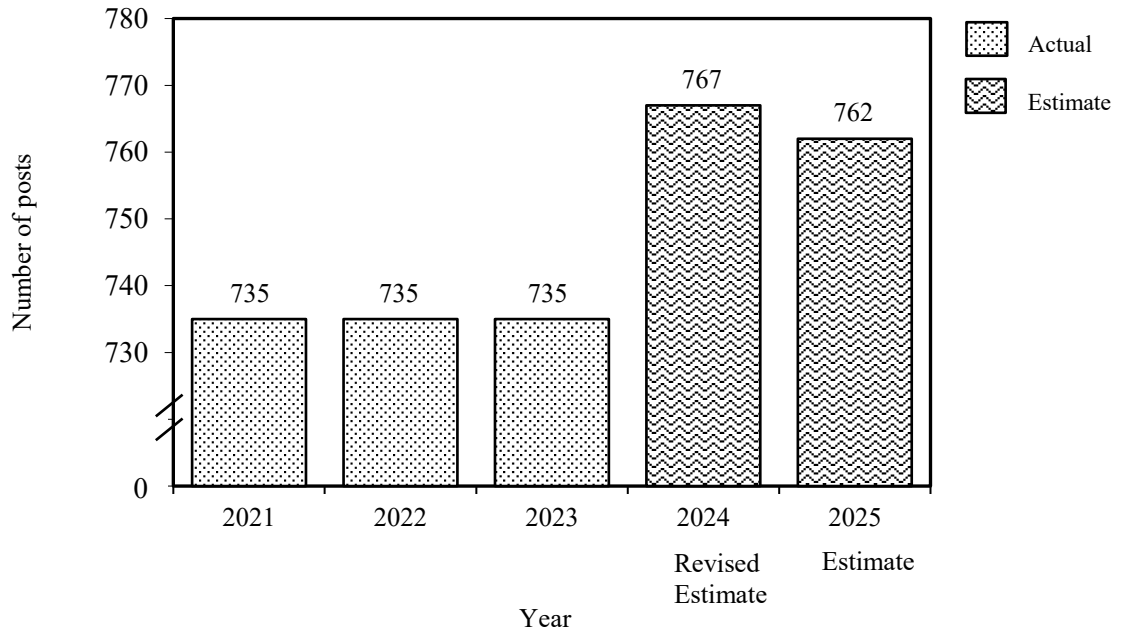
Allocation of provision to programmes (2024-25)



Staff by programme (as at 31 March 2025)



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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2022–23	Approved estimate 2023–24	Revised estimate 2023–24	Estimate 2024–25	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	991,489	1,090,445	1,082,256	1,138,387
	Total, Recurrent	991,489	1,090,445	1,082,256	1,138,387
	Total, Operating Account	991,489	1,090,445	1,082,256	1,138,387
Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
603	Plant, vehicles and equipment	45,331	54,625	58,788	72,795
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)	49,782	47,735	54,633	50,478
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works	95,113	102,360	113,421	123,273
	Total, Capital Account	95,113	102,360	113,421	123,273
	Total Expenditure	1,086,602	1,192,805	1,195,677	1,261,660

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2024–25 for the salaries and expenses of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) is \$1,261,660,000. This represents an increase of \$65,983,000 over the revised estimate for 2023–24 and \$175,058,000 over the actual expenditure in 2022–23.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$1,138,387,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of RTHK.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2024 will be 767 posts. It is expected that there will be a decrease of five posts in 2024–25. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2024–25, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$522,913,000.

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

	2022–23 (Actual) (\$'000)	2023–24 (Original) (\$'000)	2023–24 (Revised) (\$'000)	2024–25 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	407,698	435,189	413,310	460,544
- Allowances	14,326	19,241	13,849	16,312
- Job-related allowances.....	1,109	951	1,541	1,220
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	639	1,775	472	1,848
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	37,146	42,547	39,967	43,679
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	520,601	580,742	602,817	604,784
Other Charges				
- Community Involvement Broadcasting Service.....	9,970	10,000	10,300	10,000
	991,489	1,090,445	1,082,256	1,138,387

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Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2023	Revised estimated expenditure for 2023–24	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	15,968	2,599	1,433
	804	Update of transmission system at existing Digital Terrestrial Television stations	67,889	26,697	16,192	25,000
	806	New technologies for new services, operational efficiency and capacity growth	56,580	—	26,494	30,086
	808	Expansion and enhancement of transmission system for one additional FM radio channel at existing eight FM stations.....	30,856	—	7,788	23,068
	809	Infrastructure enhancement and upgrading for the coverage and broadcast of the 15th National Games and the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities cum the 9th National Special OlympicsΩ	116,000Ω	—	—	116,000
		Total	291,325	42,665	53,073	195,587

Ω This is a new item, funding for which is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2024.