

Half-yearly Progress Report on Follow-up Action
on the Government Minute
(Position as at 31.03.2000)

(Extracted)

**7-8 of Part III of PAC Report No. 31 - Employment of departmental contract staff
(FIN L/M F25/97)**

Since 1 October 1996, the number of Category I departmental contract staff (DCS), i.e. full time staff held against vacancies in the Programme Officer grade establishment, has been reduced by 64% from 143 to 52. With the freeze on recruitment to the civil service and the new policy on employment of non-civil service contract staff, Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has withheld further replacement of these staff by civil servants. RTHK now employs non-civil service contract staff to meet new operational requirements on a short term basis, as necessary.

RTHK has ceased to employ new Category II DCS who do not fall within the definition of the category i.e. freelance engaged in artistic or creative work, such as disc jockeys, actors, presenters, script-writers. As at 31 March 2000, the number of Category II DCS was 22.

As regards the full-time Category III DCS, i.e. temporary employees who do not fall within the definition of Category I or II, RTHK will regularize their employment by appointing them on non-civil service contract terms. This exercise, involving about 130 staff, will be phased over a six-month period, with the first batch to be completed in May/June 2000 and the whole exercise by December 2000.

As positive actions have been taken to address the concerns of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), we recommend to delete this item.