

**Further questions to RTHK:**

1. According to *The Administrative History of the Hong Kong Government Agencies, 1841 – 2002*, in 1954, “Radio Hong Kong was separated from the Public Relations Office and became an independent department in April. It was responsible for the broadcast of the best available programmes not only for entertainment, but for information and education; it also collected the radio licence fees.” Please provide information on the following:

- (a) the year the radio licence fees were introduced and abolished;

The radio licensing system was already in place in 1928 and was abolished in 1967.

- (b) the authority introducing and abolishing the radio licence fees;

Please refer to the Hong Kong Telecommunication Ordinance in 1920s and 1960s.

The Radio Licensing and Inspection Office (under Post Office) was responsible for wireless surveys and inspections on shipping, issue of broadcasting and receiving licences, prosecution of unlicensed and illegal receivers and transmitters; and provision of broadcasting transmission. (Source: *The Administrative History of the Hong Kong Government Agencies, 1841-2002*, by HO Pui-yin (2004 Edition), p. 316)

- (c) the amount of the radio licence fees when it was introduced and abolished;

Broadcasting is gaining in popularity and the demand for receiving licences for which a charge of HK\$5.00 per annum is made, is becoming greater. (Source: *Administrative Reports for the year 1928*, HK Government, p.14)

The cost of a receiving licence was raised from \$12 to \$20 per annum in January 1949. (Source: *Annual Report, Postmaster General 1948-1949*, p.5)

The annual radio licence fee of \$20 remained unchanged till 1967.

Annual licence figures on 31 March (Source: *Annual Reports of Postmaster General 1929-1939*; *Annual Departmental Reports of Controller of Broadcasting, 1954-1960* and *Director of Broadcasting, 1961-1967*)

Year	Chinese	Non-Chinese	Total
1929	---	---	724
1930	---	---	1,596
1931	---	---	1,788
1932	---	---	2,466
1933	---	---	3,278
1934	---	---	4,201

1935	---	---	5,104
1936	---	---	6,868
1937	---	---	8,539
1938	---	---	10,567
1939	---	---	12,549
1940-1945	---	---	NA
1946	4,226	145	4,371
1947	12,244	1,348	13,592
1948	21,540	2,624	24,164
1949	29,976	3,483	33,459
1950	38,858	3,510	42,368
1951	39,706	3,671	43,377
1952	37,909	3,302	41,211
1953	39,374	3,232	42,606
1954	38,735	3,015	41,750
1955	42,799	2,885	45,684
1956	50,390	3,683	54,073
1957	56,850	3,669	60,519
1958	62,648	3,486	66,134
1959	---	---	73,762
1960	---	---	104,688
1961	---	---	125,319
1962	---	---	135,675
1963	---	---	142,151
1964	---	---	143,298
1965	---	---	140,909
1966	---	---	166,350
1967	---	---	abolished

- (d) the basis for calculating the radio licence fees;

The Wireless Telegraphy (No. 11) – The object of this ordinance were to make it necessary for receiving sets to be licensed and to make it an offence to maintain, or possess a wireless telegraph station without a licence. (Source: Administrative Reports for the year 1926, HK Government, p.18)

- (e) the background for the introduction of the radio licence fees;

Both radio broadcasting and receiving have to apply for licences.

Another function of the Radio Licensing and Inspection Office is the enforcement of the regulations made under the International Telecommunication

Convention (Atlantic City 1947) and the Hong Kong Telecommunication Ordinance. (Source: HK Annual Report, 1951, p.109)

- (f) the reasons for abolishing the radio licence fees; and

Extracts from the annual Departmental Reports of Director of Broadcasting:

On 31<sup>st</sup> March 1963, the number of licences in force is 142,151; a licence costs \$20 annually and revenue for 1962-1963 is \$2,843,020. It seems clear that the licensing system is not as effective as it might be and at the end of the year consideration was being given to the possibilities of a more effective enforcement of revenue collection. (Source: Annual Departmental Report, Director of Broadcasting, 1962-1963, p.1)

As a public service broadcasting organization, Radio Hong Kong carries no advertising and financed from general revenue. Income from the Broadcast Receiving Licences cover part of the expenditure, and Government also derives revenue from the licence fees paid by the Rediffusion (H.K.) Ltd. and the annual royalty paid by the Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Company Ltd. .... The Departmental Report for 1962-63 noted the concern felt over the effectiveness of the licensing system. It was not possible to take remedial action to improve the system during the year and the small growth in the number of licences between 1<sup>st</sup> April 1963 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 1964. .... I calculate that there are between 500,000 and 600,000 radio receivers in use in the Colony, and licence evasion is causing a considerable loss of revenue. (Source: Annual Departmental Report, Director of Broadcasting, 1963-1964, p.1)

The number of broadcasting receiving licences in force continued to give grounds for concern since it believed that the number of radio receivers in use considerably exceeds the number of licences in force. On the 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1965, the number of licences in force was 140,909. However, a re-organisation of procedures and an increase in staff in the Postmaster General's Department, the authority responsible for the issue of licences, resulted in a rise in the total to 166,350 at the end of March 1966. The figure is still considered to be too low and efforts are being made to enforce the legislation which requires the purchase and renewal of annual licences (HK \$20 per annum) and thus increase the revenue to which Government is entitled. (Source: Annual Departmental Report, Director of Broadcasting, 1965-1966, p.2)

In his budget speech of 1<sup>st</sup> March 1967, the Financial Secretary reviewed the arguments for a licence fee and concluded that the best solution was to abandon radio licensing completely. This was a popular move, which has undoubtedly stimulated sales of radio receivers.

The abolition of the Broadcasting Receiving Licence had a further effect and that was the necessity to renegotiate the existing agreements with the Performing Rights Society and the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry since they were previously based on the accepted number of sets in use. Further assessments of payments are to be made on a 'per-capita' basis. (Source: Annual Departmental Report, Director of Broadcasting, 1966-1968, p.4-p.5)

- (g) any plans for re-introducing a licence fee regime for public service broadcasting.

No concrete plan.

2. RTHK publicizes and promotes the services of government departments. In this connection, policy bureaux and departments sponsor, on an ad hoc basis, RTHK to produce television or radio programmes to disseminate information of public interest or enhance the public's understanding of matters of public interest. Please provide information on the following:

- (a) the number of television and radio programmes sponsored by various bureaux/departments in the past five years?

**Number of TV Programmes sponsored by various bureaux/departments**

	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02
Programme*	22	27	24	24	10
Pool Feed Signal	10	8	5	5	6
Total	32	35	29	29	16

\* Programmes meant for broadcast only and there might be more than one episode to a programme.

**Number of Radio Programmes/Projects sponsored by various bureaux/departments**

	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02
No. of Programme/ projects*	20	20	23	20	25

\* One programme might last for the whole year, and one project usually consist of several smaller projects/ events.

- (b) in the event that a few bureaux/departments approaching RTHK at the same time, does RTHK have the capacity to accommodate all their requests simultaneously?

TV Programmes - No.

Radio Programmes - Yes, to a certain extent, if the requests are not concentrated in one channel/unit and handled by different channels/ units.

- (c) if yes, how many requests can RTHK accommodate at one time? Please provide with examples.

Radio Programmes - Usually, one channel/unit could accommodate 1 to 2

requests at the same time, if resources and manpower allow. For example, while Radio 1 is organizing the 'Anti-smoking campaign' (Council on Smoking and Health), Radio 5 is producing the "Ten Recommended Books' programme (Leisure and Cultural Service Department), and Radio 3 is producing the "Teen Time' (Education and Manpower Bureau) programme at the same time.

- (d) if no, what criteria have been adopted by RTHK to accord priority to the production of these programmes?

TV Programmes - It all depends on the nature of the request, whether it is of public interest, resources available, in-house commitment, scale of the project, production time allowed, transmission slots availability and past cooperation experiences.

- (e) the longest and the shortest lead-time for producing a television/radio programme for a sponsoring bureau/department? Please provide with examples.

TV Programmes - Apart from production of a complete programme, API or training film could allow more time to manoeuvre, TV Division sometimes provides pool coverage of events that are of public interest, e.g., "The visit of Delegation of Shenzhou 6", "Honours and Awards Presentation" and etc. The shortest lead-time might be less than a day, i.e. new CE designate Press Conference and State Vice President's Visit, and the longest lead-time was more than a year, i.e. the Handover Ceremony in 1997, the Establishment of the HKSAR and WTO MC6 Conference.

Radio Programmes - Depending on the nature of the programmes, the lead-time varies.

- (f) are all programmes of the sponsoring bureaux/departments broadcast soon after their production? If no, how long will they sit before they can be broadcast?

TV & Radio Programmes - Joint project with a sponsoring bureau/department is a result of discussion and consensus reached. There are usually an agreed time frame of production, transmission arrangement if applicable, funds involved, duration of programme and other technicalities explicitly laid down in an agreement. Production schedule of programmes meant for broadcast would in practice be arranged according to transmission schedule, especially for those programmes/events that have time constraint, such as Election programmes.

- (g) does RTHK co-ordinate and compile the broadcasting schedules for these programmes?

TV & Radio Programmes - RTHK coordinates and charts out the transmission schedule for programmes meant for broadcast. However, for public events or events of public interest, only pool feed signals would be provided to broadcasters, transmission of which is solely at their discretion.

3. According to the Programme: Radio of the *Controlling Officer's Report 2006-07*, the number of partnerships/co-organized projects has been reduced from 139 in 2004-5 to 137 in 2005-6 and the number of community/educational projects organized has been reduced from 174 to 145 in the corresponding period. What is the nature of these partnerships/co-organized projects? Please provide some examples for both partnerships/co-organized projects and community/educational projects. What are the reasons for the reduction of these projects?
- (i) The nature of the partnerships / co-organised projects are mainly on civic education, charity, health, culture & education, promoting positive attitude towards life, and music. Only non-profit-making organizations, NGOs or government departments will be considered as our partners / co-producers for projects.
- (ii) (a) Examples of Partnerships / co-organised projects in 2005:

Project Title	Co-organisers/ Partners
International Symposium on National Education 國民教育國際交流研討會	Home Affairs Bureau 民政事務局
Outstanding Disabled Employees Campaign 展能拍檔	Labour Department 勞工處
Liberal Studies Preparatory Course 通識預備班	Education and Manpower Bureau 教育統籌局
Regeneration Project 再生勇士頒獎禮	Regeneration Society 再生會
HK Brand and Products Expo 工展會	Chinese Manufacturers' Association 香港中華廠商聯合會
Health Charter 衛生約章	Occupational Safety and Health Council 職業安全健康局
Youth Cultural and Art Workshop 「青年學藝團」	Lions Club International District 303 – HK & Macau 國際獅子總會港澳三零三區
World Book & Copyright Day – Let's Read and Learn 世界閱讀日 – 全城「悅」讀大行動	H. K. Publishing Federation, H.K. Education City Ltd., H.K. Federation of Youth Groups, CUHK, LCSD 香港出版總會, 香港教育城 香港青年協會, 香港中文大學 康樂文化事務署
Thousand Miles Friendship Trek Solar Project Concert 2005 同心同根萬里行太陽計劃 2005 大匯演	H.K. Youth Uniform Groups' Association 香港青少年制服團體

Basic Law Speech Competition 基本法演講比賽	Home Affairs Bureau 民政事務局
Project for the Elderly 2005 – Free Cataract Surgery Project 暖流行動----光明在望現彩虹	Action for Vision Eye Foundation Ltd., St. James Settlement 光明行動護眼基金, 聖雅各福羣會
8 <sup>th</sup> Guandong- HK-Macau Putonghua Competition 第八屆粵港澳普通話大賽	Radio Guangdong 廣東衛星電台 Radio Foshan 佛山電台 Radio Macau 澳門電台
Global Chinese Music Awards 全球華語歌曲排行榜	7 Chinese Radio Stations around the World 全球七間華語電台
Operation Santa Claus 2005	South China Morning Post
Music Beyond Borders – Britain/ Italy/Latin America	Consulate General of the United Kingdom/ Italy/ Colombia in HK and the Group of Latin American Consulate in Hong Kong (GRULAC)

(b) Examples of Community / educational Projects in 2005:

<b>Project Title</b>	
Reading Train	(閱讀車廂)
Occupational Safety Quiz	(職安健問答比賽)
Smoke Free Hong Kong	(無煙香港運動)
Messiah in the Park	(聖誕園林音樂會—彌賽亞)
Environmental Protection Pioneers	(綠野先鋒)
Solar Project 2005 – Mental Health Awareness	(太陽計劃 2005 – 心晴靚曬)
Safe Sex Education	(「要有一套」安全性行為推廣活動)
Used Books Recycling Campaign	(舊書回收義賣大行動)
Inter Post-Secondary Colleges Debate Competition 2005	(大專辯論賽 2005)
Ten Recommended Books 2005	(十本好書 2005)
Children Story-Telling Competition	(全港兒童故事演講比賽)

- (iii) The decrease in the number of “community / educational projects” organised is due to:
- Budget cut in the year 2005-06, so less resource could be allocated to organise smaller-scale projects;
  - Shifting of emphasis on the quality and scale of such projects instead of quantity.