

**立法會**  
*Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CB(1)661/18-19(04)

Ref. : CB1/PL/ITB

**Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting**

**Meeting on 11 March 2019**

**Updated background brief on the post of  
Administrative Officer Staff Grade B in Radio Television Hong Kong**

**Purpose**

This paper provides background information on the post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B ("AOSGB") in Radio Television Hong Kong ("RTHK") and summarizes the previous discussions by Members on the subject.

**Background**

Radio Television Hong Kong as a public service broadcaster

*New development initiatives of the decade*

2. In September 2009, the Government decided that RTHK should expand its scope of services to fulfil its mission as the public service broadcaster in Hong Kong, and would take forward various new development initiatives including launching digital audio broadcasting ("DAB") and digital terrestrial television ("DTT") broadcasting services, facilitating community involvement in broadcasting, planning for the re-provisioning of the Broadcasting House ("BH"), and establishing a digital media asset management ("MAM") system.

3. To strengthen the support for RTHK at the directorate level to lead and coordinate the new services and projects in connection with RTHK's new role, the Administration, in February 2011, sought the views of the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting ("the Panel") on the proposal of creating a supernumerary AOSGB post for three years. The post-holder would oversee departmental administration and resources deployment and lead and coordinate the project on reprovisioning of BH, the MAM project and the development works in support of the DAB and DTT services. The supernumerary post was approved by the Finance Committee ("FC") on 27 May 2011, and was designated as Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Developments) ("DD of B(D)"). The post would lapse on 26 May 2014.

4. In December 2013, the Administration, having considered the complexity of tasks to be tackled by RTHK in the ensuing five years and the workload involved, sought the Panel's views on the proposal to extend the DD of B(D) post for another five years to 26 May 2019. The Administration informed the Panel that, with the extension of the post, RTHK would have dedicated support at senior directorate level to oversee and follow through the completion of the New BH project, and to lead and coordinate the migration of RTHK from its existing premises to the new building. DD of B(D) would continue to provide the necessary steer to the developments of DTT, DAB, MAM and other RTHK's new services.

5. At the meeting of the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC") held on 3 January 2014, members, in considering PWSC(2013-14)28 "69KA – New Broadcasting House of Radio Television Hong Kong", did not support the funding proposal for the New BH project. Although a revised proposal was subsequently presented to PWSC members separately, the Administration was not able to secure sufficient support from PWSC. The Administration decided on 29 January 2014<sup>1</sup> not to re-submit the revised funding proposal for the time being. Despite such development, the Administration still considered it necessary to extend the supernumerary post for five years. The Administration informed the Panel that RTHK would need to maintain strong governance at senior directorate level to provide the necessary high-level steer to tackle various tasks for the re-planning of the New BH project. The proposed extension was approved by FC on 11 July 2014.

---

<sup>1</sup> Vide [LC Paper No. PWSC41/13-14\(01\)](#)

## **Previous discussions**

6. The Administration briefed members on the proposal of creating the supernumerary post of AOSGB for three years at the Panel meeting held on 14 February 2011. Members supported the staffing proposal in general. When the post was about to expire in 2014, the Administration sought the Panel's support for extension of the supernumerary post for five years on 9 December 2013 and 10 March 2014, and sought the recommendation of the Establishment Subcommittee ("ESC") on 30 April 2014 for the proposal to be submitted to FC for approval.

### Term of the post

7. Panel members noted that the proposed post of DD of B(D) would perform heavy duties and suggested that the Administration should provide adequate support to the incumbent of the post. The Administration replied that support at non-directorate levels would be strengthened to ensure smooth implementation of the various initiatives.

8. Some members queried the need to extend the supernumerary post by five years to May 2019, particularly when the Administration could not receive sufficient support from PWSC for the New BH project to proceed. Some other members queried whether the proposed supernumerary post should be created as a permanent one to ensure administrative consistency. The Administration explained that the case for a permanent need for the post had yet to be established at that stage. A five-year extension was considered appropriate as RTHK would need to have dedicated support at senior directorate level to oversee and follow through the completion of the New BH project and to lead and coordinate the migration of RTHK from its existing premises to the new building.

9. The Administration added that PWSC members generally agreed in principle to the need for RTHK to have a new BH; they only had concerns about the cost estimate and scope of the project. The proposed supernumerary AOSGB post was still considered necessary. The Administration explained that RTHK and the Architectural Services Department, the works agent, would need to start re-planning the New BH project taking into account PWSC members' concerns and to review the delivery mode of the project. The DD of B(D) post holder would need to consider alternative proposals and additional maintenance projects for the existing premises. Besides, the Administration informed the Panel that RTHK required a senior directorate officer to steer the work and tackle various tasks related to the restoration and digitization work of the MAM

project and the construction of the RTHK DTT fill-in stations, which were expected to complete by the end of 2015-2016 and the first quarter of 2019, respectively.

10. Some ESC members queried whether the supernumerary post would be needed if the New BH project was eventually not approved by the Legislative Council. The Administration responded that in the unlikely event that the New BH project was not to proceed, DD of B(D) would still have to coordinate a number of renovation and maintenance projects for RTHK's existing obsolete premises along Broadcast Drive to extend their service life, and cope with the expansion of RTHK's services.

Filling of the post by an officer from the Administrative Officer grade

11. Members had questioned why the Administration had filled the DD of B(D) post by an AOSGB officer. Some members expressed concern about the increased involvement of Administrative Officers ("AOs") in the management of RTHK. Some other members queried whether a technical expert was more suitable to lead and coordinate the New BH project, and to undertake the development of DTT, DAB and MAM services. Some members considered that liaison and coordination work for the New BH project should be taken up by the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau instead.

12. The Administration advised that it had no intention to regularize the appointment of AOs as RTHK management. An AOSGB officer was considered suitable for the DD of B(D) post in carrying out planning and monitoring of the New BH project, and to coordinate closely with Government departments, the contractor of the New BH project and RTHK's own contractors of broadcasting facilities. The Administration explained that an officer from the AO grade possessed strong background and capability in government administration and would be more suited to steer through the complicated issues arising from the planning and implementation of various new services and projects from the macro perspective as well as coordinate efforts both among different units in RTHK and with policy bureaux/departments and other stakeholders for effective delivery of the services and implementation of the projects. Relevant departmental and technical staff in RTHK would provide assistance to DD of B(D) as necessary.

**Latest position**

13. The Administration will brief the Panel on 11 March 2019 on its proposal to create a permanent post of AOSGB in RTHK.

**Relevant papers**

14. A list of the relevant papers is set out in the **Appendix**.

Council Business Division 1  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
6 March 2019

## List of relevant papers

Issued by	Meeting date	Paper
Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting	14 February 2011	Administration's paper on strengthening directorate support for Radio Television Hong Kong <a href="#">LC Paper No. CB(1)1224/10-11(09)</a>  Minutes of meeting <a href="#">LC Paper No. CB(1)1709/10-11</a>
	9 December 2013	Administration's paper on proposed extension of a supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B in Radio Television Hong Kong <a href="#">LC Paper No. CB(4)196/13-14(03)</a>  Minutes of meeting <a href="#">LC Paper No. CB(4)413/13-14</a>
	10 March 2014	Administration's paper on proposed extension of a supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B in Radio Television Hong Kong <a href="#">LC Paper No. CB(4)405/13-14(03)</a>  Minutes of meeting <a href="#">LC Paper No. CB(4)631/13-14</a>

Issued by	Meeting date	Paper
Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee	30 April 2014	<p>Proposed retention of one supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B (D3) in Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) for five years with effect from 27 May 2014 to lead and steer the planning and implementation of new projects and service in RTHK  <a href="#">EC(2014-15)1</a></p> <p>Administration's response to issues raised at the meeting on 30 April 2014  <a href="#">LC Paper No. ESC49/13-14(01)</a></p> <p>Minutes of meeting  <a href="#">LC Paper No. ESC52/13-14</a></p>
Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee	18 December 2013	<p>69KA – New Broadcasting House of Radio Television Hong Kong  <a href="#">PWSC(2013-14)28</a></p> <p>Administration's response to issues raised at the meeting on 18 December 2013  <a href="#">LC Paper No. PWSC25/13-14(01)</a></p> <p>Minutes of meeting  <a href="#">LC Paper No. PWSC46/13-14</a></p>
	3 January 2014	<p>69KA – New Broadcasting House of Radio Television Hong Kong  <a href="#">PWSC(2013-14)28</a></p> <p>Minutes of meeting  <a href="#">LC Paper No. PWSC61/13-14</a></p>