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Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2021-22

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Session No. : 12

Consolidated e-file name : CEDB(CCI)-1-e1.doc

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)001

(Question Serial No. 1365)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (700) General non-recurrent

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The estimate for 2021-22 is \$221.7 million (52.4%) higher than that for 2020-21. According to the analysis on page 331, this is mainly due to increase in cash flow requirement for general non-recurrent items. Please advise this Committee of the general non-current items which contribute to the increase in the estimate, and the justification for the increase in the estimate.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

Regarding Programme (1), the estimate for 2021-22 is higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21 mainly because of expected increase in the number of projects funded by both the CreateSmart Initiative after approval of the injection of an additional \$1 billion and the Film Development Fund under which a provision of \$260 million has been earmarked to launch five supporting measures, as well as funds reserved to be disburse for subsidies deferred from 2020-21.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)002

(Question Serial No. 1413)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The Budget Speech mentions that an additional \$1 billion will be injected into the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) in 2021-22 to continuously drive the development of the creative industries. Please inform this Committee -

- (a) of projects funded by the CSI and the amount of funding in the past 2 financial years;
- (b) of the manpower and expenditure involved;
- (c) whether performance indicators have been set for the CSI to measure whether expected outcomes are achieved. If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.: 49)

Reply:

- (a) In 2019-20 and 2020-21, a total of 103 projects were approved under the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI), involving a total amount of around \$626.9 million. The project titles and amounts of funding are at **Annex**.
- (b) Promoting the development of creative industries is part of the regular duties of Create Hong Kong (CreateHK). The manpower and expenditure involved are included in the overall establishment and expenditure of the Communications and Creative Industries Branch of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, which cover general non-recurrent expenditure such as funding support to various projects under the CSI.
- (c) CreateHK has been using the following 9 performance indicators to measure the effectiveness of the CSI: (i) number of approved projects; (ii) number of participants; (iii) approved amount; (iv) number of international awards attained; (v) number of job opportunities created; (vi) number of small and medium-sized enterprises benefited; (vii) number of business contacts or enquiries created; (viii) number of nurturing opportunities created for creative talents and start-ups; and (ix) number of television

audience reach in respect of awards presentation and music programmes. From 2018-19 onwards, 4 new performance indicators were added for the CSI to gauge the degree of community awareness through measuring (i) the extent of public participation; and (ii) the number of media coverage; and to better quantify the benefits brought to the industry participants through measuring (iii) the number of opportunities to showcase creations or talents; and (iv) the number of business deals secured.

**Titles and Amounts of Funding of Projects Approved under
the CreateSmart Initiative in 2019-20 and 2020-21**

Sector	Project Title	Amount of Funding
Design	HK Illustration X Original Design Brands Exhibition	\$9,343,300
	Hong Kong Interior Design Week 2020	\$6,012,600
	The Redress Design Award 2020	\$4,468,140
	The Redress Design Award 2021	\$4,449,772
	DesignInspire 2019 - Hong Kong Creative Force	\$590,000
	DesignInspire 2020 - Hong Kong Creative Force	\$705,000
	deTour 2019	\$5,700,675
	deTour 2020	\$6,632,300
	DFA Awards 2019	\$10,465,600
	DFA Awards 2020	\$8,238,753
	DX 2019 (California)	\$4,353,500
	Fashion Asia Hong Kong 2019	\$12,593,100
	Fashion Asia Hong Kong 2020	\$10,545,798
	Fashion Hong Kong Series	\$6,530,000
	Fashion Promotion Coinciding with CENTRESTAGE 2019	\$9,456,500
	Fashion Promotion Coinciding with CENTRESTAGE 2020	\$4,148,000
	Fashion Promotion Coinciding with CENTRESTAGE 2021	\$9,826,400
	FFFRIDAY 2019/2020	\$3,950,000
	HKFG Paris AW20	\$5,454,740
	HKFG Paris SS20	\$5,571,740
	HKFG Paris SS21	\$5,626,740
	Hong Kong Atelier	\$2,686,100
	Hong Kong Designers Association Global Design Awards 2021	\$4,844,900
	Project HK-UK: Design, Artistry and Craftsmanship	\$8,829,100
	SEED – To Open Minds	\$3,737,000
	Symposium and Workshops on “Design Thinking” and Innovation for Public Open Space in Hong Kong	\$7,200,000
Yesterday’s Future, Invent Tomorrow!	\$2,559,400	

Sector	Project Title	Amount of Funding
	HKIUD Greater Bay Area Urban Design Week	\$1,858,100
	Tinkering, Kids!	\$3,765,300
	Public Awareness Programme 2019	\$5,965,000
	Public Awareness Programme 2020	\$3,219,134
	Chengdu Creativity & Design Week 2019 - Hong Kong Pavilion	\$6,604,700
	Milan Design Week Hong Kong Showcase 2020	\$7,123,500
	Showcase of Hong Kong 2021 in Milan Design Week	\$3,087,200
	Hong Kong Denim Festival - Denim Tomorrow: Revolutionise Denim with Innovative Strategies to Boost Creative Start Ups	\$3,582,740
	Nurturing Programme of Hong Kong Young Design Talents 2019	\$2,491,600
	Nurturing Programme of Hong Kong Young Design Talents 2020	\$7,093,978
	Sponsorship for International Design Awards 2020	\$6,025,380
	No Kidding! HKDA Kids Design Thinking Awards 2020	\$6,330,000
	Hong Kong Smart Design Awards 2020	\$4,963,000
	Hong Kong Smart Design Awards 2021	\$4,909,200
	Fashion Summit (HK) - 2019	\$2,297,575
	Fashion Summit (HK) - 2020-2021	\$6,113,200
	Fashion Incubation Programme (Phase 2)	\$18,280,000
	Break The Cocoon, Sparkling Hong Kong 2020	\$2,017,000
	Global Design Network (GDN) Symposium 2019	\$849,800
	Design x Tech (DxT)	\$8,283,000
	Design Spectrum 2020-2021	\$7,876,300
	Unleash! Empowered by Design Thinking 2019/2020	\$8,808,000
	Design Incubation Programme (Phase 4)	\$99,720,000
	Knowledge of Design Week 2019	\$5,076,600
	Knowledge of Design Week 2020	\$4,654,940
	Business of Design Week 2019	\$20,715,100
	Business of Design Week 2020	\$19,516,072
	Uplifting Funding Scheme Application	\$4,988,000

Sector	Project Title	Amount of Funding
	Experience Through Design Thinking	
	JUXTAPOSED 2020	\$8,737,150
	Wear Dance	\$3,301,575
Advertising	2020 HK4As Representatives' Participation in International Awards cum Creative Sharing in HK	\$631,100
	Hong Kong Creativity in Business (2019-2020)	\$200,000
	Hong Kong Creativity in Business (2020-2021)	\$100,000
	7 th Microfilm Production Support Scheme (Music)	\$7,024,800
	8 th Microfilm Production Support Scheme (Music)	\$7,549,000
	5 th Hong Kong Digital Advertising Industry Fresh Graduate Support Scheme	\$7,881,700
Architecture	Hong Kong Ways - The Infinite Possibilities Exploring Hong Kong through Architecture	\$5,557,500
	The 17 th Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition (Hong Kong Exhibition and Response Exhibition)	\$2,625,750
Digital Entertainment	Asia Smart App Awards 2020	\$2,053,000
	Inno Action! The 8 th HKBU Academy of Film Seeds Project	\$647,500
	REFRESHING @ Angoulême International Comics Festival, France and Hong Kong	\$2,132,300
	Scaling Hong Kong to the Nordics - a Market Opportunity for Creative Digital Entertainment and Gaming Startups/Scaleups from Cyberport	\$1,186,612
	"Belt and Road" Series - Hong Kong Digital Entertainment Promotion and Study Tour to Malaysia Comic Fiesta 2019	\$1,233,815
	Organize 22 nd Digicon6 HK Awards, Master Training in Hong Kong and join the Regional Awards Ceremony in Japan	\$1,918,760
	Promoting Hong Kong Comics by establishing Avenue of Comic Stars (Phase 3)	\$8,134,700
	Hong Kong Animation and Digital Entertainment Pavilion 2020	\$400,000

Sector	Project Title	Amount of Funding
	Hong Kong Animation and Digital Entertainment Pavilion 2021	\$360,000
	Hong Kong Game Industry Promotion Mission to Game Developers Conference	\$3,502,912
	2 nd Hong Kong Game Enhancement and Promotion Scheme	\$8,464,500
	The 8 th Animation Support Programme	\$9,553,000
	4 th Hong Kong Digital Entertainment Industry Fresh Graduate Support Scheme	\$5,635,200
Music	“Make Music Work” - Music Creation and Production Talents Nurturing Scheme	\$5,132,400
	The Music Must Go On 2020	\$8,129,000
	Ear Up Music Global 2020	\$7,386,560
	Ear Up Tour - Mainland 2020	\$9,181,580
	Ear Up Record Label Creation and Incubation Programme 20/21	\$5,455,100
	Ear Up Record Label Creation and Incubation Programme 21/22	\$6,220,180
	Ear Up Busking 2019: Music x Fashion Creative Scheme	\$3,306,000
	Ear Up Busking 2020: Music x Fashion Creative Scheme	\$6,950,300
Publishing and Printing	Emerging Writer Publication Scheme	\$6,473,200
	The 3 rd Hong Kong Publishing Biennial Awards (2020-2021)	\$2,400,600
	Soaring Creativity - Hong Kong Pavilion 2019 (Hong Kong Publishing and Printing Industry Joining Three International Book Fairs)	\$6,254,409
	Soaring Creativity - Hong Kong Pavilion 2020 (Hong Kong Publishing and Printing Industry Joining Taipei International Book Exhibition and Bologna Children’s Book Fair)	\$5,380,030
	Soaring Creativity - Hong Kong Pavilion 2020 (Hong Kong Publishing and Printing Industry Joining South China Book Festival and Beijing International Book Fair)	\$5,395,817
Television	Asia Video Summit 2019	\$550,480
	Asia Video Summit 2020	\$795,760
Others	In Style • Hong Kong Symposium 2020	\$150,000

Sector	Project Title	Amount of Funding
(Cross-disciplinary)	In Style • Hong Kong Symposium 2021	\$135,000
	Organising 2 nd Cross-Matching Showcase in HK International Licensing Show 2020	\$2,713,048
	Organising 3 rd Cross-Matching Showcase in HK International Licensing Show 2021	\$2,677,081
	Hong Kong Licensing Awards 2019	\$1,364,846
	Hong Kong Licensing Awards 2020	\$1,678,619
	The 2 nd “HK Digital Advertising Start-ups X Publishing (Writers) Promotion Support Scheme”	\$4,364,660
	The 3 rd “HK Digital Advertising Start-ups X Publishing (Writers) Promotion Support Scheme”	\$4,534,660
	SmartHK 2019	\$360,000
	SmartHK 2020	\$400,000

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CCI)003****(Question Serial No. 1974)**

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Regarding the subsidy scheme to extend fibre-based networks to villages in remote areas, will the Government inform this Committee of the following -

- (a) the progress of the scheme;
- (b) the expenditure involved;
- (c) the number of fixed network operators committing the rollout of fibre-based networks within the villages;
- (d) Since Sha Tau Kok Chuen, a public rental housing estate, is covered by the scheme, will the Government make early preparation for the provision of broadband services to the occupants as soon as possible after the rollout of fibre-based networks?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hak-kan (LegCo internal reference no.: 97)

Reply:

- (a) The Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) is responsible for implementing the subsidy scheme to extend fibre-based networks to villages in remote areas (the subsidy scheme). It has awarded all the 6 tender projects in 2019 and 2020. The selected fixed network operators are extending fibre-based networks to 235 villages across 9 districts in the New Territories and on outlying islands in phases from this year onwards. The details are as follows -

Financial year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Estimated number of villages where the rollout of fibre-based networks under the subsidy scheme will be completed (Percentage)	29 villages (12.3%)	84 villages (35.7%)	69 villages (29.4%)	38 villages (16.2%)	15 villages (6.4%)

- (b) The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved a provision of \$774.4 million in 2018 to implement the subsidy scheme. The Communications and Creative Industries Branch of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau has also earmarked a total of \$69.8 million to cover the administrative expenses incurred by OFCA for the implementation of the subsidy scheme, including the creation of 10 time-limited civil service posts and non-civil service contract posts.
- (c) The 2 fixed network operators (FNOs) under the subsidy scheme will provide villagers with high-speed broadband services through rolling out fibre-based networks within the villages or adopting other technical options (e.g. deploying radio access technology) where practicable, having regard to factors such as geographical environment and population in the villages concerned.
- (d) The subsidy scheme has covered Sha Tau Kok Market (West Upper) and Sha Tau Kok Market (West Lower). Sha Tau Kok Chuen is situated within these 2 villages. The FNO has made an additional commitment to roll out fibre-based networks for Sha Tau Kok Chuen, so that occupants can access broadband services at a speed of 1 000 megabits per second or above.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)004

(Question Serial No. 1433)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The Financial Secretary mentioned the development of creative industries and professional services under the “Stimulating the Economy - The Way Forward for Industries” section (paragraphs 63 to 68) of the Budget Speech. Please inform this Committee of details of the work done by the HKSAR Government in promoting and facilitating the continued development of local creative industries and professional services to complement the development of our country over the past year. What was the expenditure involved? What were the outcomes? What are the specific work plans for the new financial year 2021-22? What is the estimated expenditure to be incurred? Please explain with examples.

Asked by: Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

Regarding the creative industries in Hong Kong, the Government has all along been encouraging the trade to strengthen communication with their counterparts in the Mainland and other countries (especially the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) and Belt and Road countries), and sponsoring them through two dedicated funds, namely the CreateSmart Initiative and the Film Development Fund, to organise activities in various regions for expanding markets and further developing Hong Kong's creative industries to complement the national development of our country.

In 2020-21, Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) sponsored a total of 7 projects to showcase Hong Kong's creative products and services to the Mainland and Belt and Road countries and assist the trade to understand the market and the latest developments of their counterparts in the concerned countries, establish contact with the related enterprises and explore business opportunities. The total amount of sponsorship involved in these projects was about \$12 million. Some of the projects were also held in places other than the Mainland or Belt and Road countries/regions. The Hong Kong organisers participating in

the projects and the participants generally agreed that the activities had achieved the intended purposes, and were also satisfied with the contents and arrangements of these projects. Due to the epidemic, 9 projects were postponed to 2021-22 while 6 were cancelled.

In 2021-22, CreateHK plans to sponsor 14 projects to be held in Mainland cities and Belt and Road countries, including those activities postponed to 2021-22 due to the epidemic. The total amount of sponsorship involved in these projects is about \$48 million. Some of the projects would also be held in places other than the Mainland or Belt and Road countries/regions. If the proposed trade delegation visits could not proceed due to the epidemic, CreateHK would proactively promote and assist the trade to use various virtual means to carry out online exchanges according to actual circumstances. It would also encourage cross-media and cross-sector co-operation to showcase Hong Kong's creative products and design services to these countries and regions, and to explore co-operation opportunities and expand business according to the demands of their markets notwithstanding the limitations caused by the epidemic.

Regarding professional services, during 2020-21, the Commerce, Industry and Tourism Branch of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau continued to implement the Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme (PASS) to provide funding support for the professional services sectors to implement non-profit-making projects aimed at increasing exchanges and co-operation of Hong Kong's professional services with their counterparts in external markets, promoting relevant publicity activities, and enhancing the standards and external competitiveness of Hong Kong's professional services. The actual expenditure of PASS varies depending on the number of applications approved, progress of projects and amount of funding approved. The 2020-21 revised estimated expenditure for PASS was \$11 million, while the 2021-22 estimated expenditure is \$20 million.

As announced in the 2020 Policy Address, to encourage Hong Kong professional services sectors to step up promotion of Hong Kong's competitive edges and professional services to the Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and overseas markets after the pandemic has stabilised, \$50 million has been set aside under PASS to subsidise Hong Kong's major professional bodies' participation in relevant activities organised by the Government, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and overseas Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1566)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Regarding the injection of \$1 billion into the "CreateSmart Initiative" (CSI), will the Government inform this Committee of the following -

- (a) What is the estimated proportion of the funding injection of \$1 billion in each of the 3 strategic directions, namely (i) nurturing talent and facilitating start-ups; (ii) exploring markets; and (iii) fostering a creative atmosphere in the community?
- (b) What is the actual amount of funding allocated under the CSI, one of the major funds for the development of "Arts Tech", to support "Arts Tech" projects?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

- (a) The funding injection of \$1 billion into the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) will continue to enhance support to relevant projects according to the three strategic foci of the CSI, including nurturing talent and facilitating start-ups of creative industries, exploring markets, and promoting Hong Kong as Asia's creative capital and fostering a creative atmosphere in the community. As nurturing talent and facilitating start-ups are the top priorities in the development of creative industries of the current-term Government, the split of the funding injection into the CSI will broadly be -
 - (i) nurturing talent and facilitating start-ups (approximately 50%);
 - (ii) exploring markets (approximately 25%); and
 - (iii) promoting Hong Kong as Asia's creative capital and fostering a creative atmosphere in the community (approximately 25%).
- (b) Create Hong Kong will work with the task force set up and led by the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) in promoting and sponsoring the development of Arts Tech, together with the HAB and the Innovation and Technology Bureau. In this connection, the Government has set aside a total of \$100 million under 4 funds (i.e. the Arts and Sport

Development Fund, the Innovation and Technology Fund, the Film Development Fund and the CSI) for the related sectors to apply for funding. The CSI will continue to adopt a “partnership approach”, whereby the industry would initiate and implement projects with funding support from the Government. The actual amount of the CSI funding for Arts Tech-related projects will depend on the number of approved projects and the respective funding amounts.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)006

(Question Serial No. 1574)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 of the Programme, it has been mentioned that “(the Branch will) continue to lead/sponsor delegations to the Mainland and Belt and Road countries and make use of opportunities pursuant to the development of the Greater Bay Area as well as the Belt and Road Initiative, with a view to developing new markets for the creative industries”. In this connection, will the Bureau inform this Committee of the following -

- (a) the estimated number of delegation visits to the Mainland and the number of participants per delegation as well as the destination(s) to be visited;
- (b) in view of the border control restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 epidemic, the itineraries of leading/sponsoring delegations to the Mainland and Belt and Road countries will unavoidably be affected. If the epidemic cannot be further contained in the short term, will alternative proposals, such as arranging online exchange seminars, be considered? If so, what are the details of the plans? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

- (a) In 2021-22, Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) plans to sponsor 5 creative sector delegations to visit Mainland cities, including those visits which are postponed from 2020-21 to 2021-22 due to the epidemic. The tentative arrangements for these projects are set out in the following table.

	Tentative Date of the Event	Destination	Details
1.	April to November 2021	Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Foshan, Zhongshan and Zhuhai	To sponsor the music sector to organise a number of performances in tertiary institutes and live houses in the Greater Bay Area to nurture Hong Kong music talents and promote local music
2.	May 2021	Guangzhou and Zhejiang	To sponsor the film sector to organise the “Neo Luma - Market Expansion into Mainland China Film Market” to provide Hong Kong’s film sector with training and internship opportunities, with a view to promoting exchanges and communication between the sectors of the two places
3.	August to September 2021	Jiangmen and Zhongshan	To sponsor Hong Kong’s creative enterprises to organise exhibitions, business matchings, visits to creative hubs and networking activities in Jiangmen and Zhongshan
4.	Second half of 2021	Two cities from Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Zhuhai or Macao	To sponsor representatives of the urban design sector to visit the Greater Bay Area
5.	January 2022	Shanghai and Zhuhai	To sponsor the design sector to lead winners of the “Hong Kong Designers Association Global Design Awards 2021” (the Awards) to organise seminars in various cities to promote the Awards and winning designers

Note: As these events are still under planning, the number of participants for individual projects is yet to be confirmed.

- (b) If the proposed trade delegation visits to the Mainland and Belt and Road countries could not proceed due to the epidemic, CreateHK would proactively promote and assist the sectors to use various virtual means to carry out online exchanges according to actual circumstances. It would also encourage cross-media and cross-sector co-operation to showcase Hong Kong’s creative products, design services, etc. to the places concerned, and to explore co-operation opportunities and expand business according to the demands of their markets notwithstanding the limitations caused by the epidemic.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)007

(Question Serial No. 1269)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The Budget Speech has mentioned that there is also a growing demand for cultural and creative elements in the cyber world. The Government will allocate additional resources to promote the development of cultural and creative industries, so that young people can have more employment and business start-up opportunities to unleash their potential and realising their dreams. Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22, (the Branch) will continue to lead/sponsor delegations to Belt and Road countries and make use of opportunities pursuant to the development of the Belt and Road Initiative, with a view to developing new markets for the creative industries. Please advise this Committee of the following -

- (a) the number, scale, amount of sponsorship and outcomes regarding leading/sponsoring delegations to Belt and Road countries in the past 3 years. Have regular communication platforms been established to explore ever-changing cultural development, exchange and co-operation?
- (b) will delegation visits be conducted to Belt and Road countries in 2021-22, subject to the development of the COVID-19 epidemic? If so, what will be the manpower and estimated amounts of sponsorship? If not, will online cultural and creative exchanges be considered?
- (c) the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Finance of China are expediting the formulation of the "Silk Road Cultural Industry Strategic Plan". Will Hong Kong seek to join and help implement the plan?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 66)

Reply:

- (a) Details of creative sector delegations led/sponsored to Belt and Road countries in the past 3 years are at the **Annex**. The main purposes of organising the delegation visits are to showcase and promote Hong Kong's creative products and services to markets outside Hong Kong, and to assist the trade to understand the market and the latest

development in these countries, with a view to strengthening mutual exchanges and co-operation as well as exploring more business opportunities. The Hong Kong organisers participating in the relevant projects generally agreed that the visits had achieved the intended purposes, including establishing communication platforms among enterprises, facilitating discussions on co-operation proposals with enterprises there, etc. The participants were also generally content with the overall arrangement of the delegation visits.

- (b) In 2021-22, Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) plans to sponsor 8 creative sector delegations to visit and organise activities in Belt and Road countries, including those which are postponed from 2020-21 to 2021-22 due to the epidemic. The estimated amount of sponsorship is about \$29.10 million. CreateHK will continue to discuss with the trade to understand their market development needs, and consider organising or sponsoring more visits, subject to the development of the epidemic. If the proposed delegation visits could not proceed due to the epidemic, CreateHK would proactively promote and assist the sectors to use various virtual means to carry out online exchanges according to actual circumstances. It would also encourage cross-media and cross-sector co-operation to showcase Hong Kong's creative products, design services, etc. to these countries and to explore co-operation opportunities and expand business according to the demands of their markets notwithstanding the limitations caused by the epidemic.
- (c) The Government would take heed of the development of the "Silk Road Cultural Industry Strategic Plan". Meanwhile, through the CreateSmart Initiative and the Film Development Fund, CreateHK would continue to provide funding support to local creative sectors for organising various networking and matching activities to assist the sectors to expand business in Belt and Road countries.

**Projects involving Creative Sector Delegations led/sponsored to Belt and Road Countries
from 2018-19 to 2020-21**

	Date	Concerned Country/Region	Scale	Outcome	Expenditure/Amount of Sponsorship Involved#
2018-19 (13 Projects)					
1.	May to November 2018	Italy	Sponsored the architectural sector to set up Hong Kong Pavilion at the “16 th Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition” to showcase the works of Hong Kong architects	Facilitated exchanges between the trade and its counterparts outside Hong Kong and promoted Hong Kong’s architectural industry	About \$2.62 million
2.	June 2018	Korea and other non-Belt and Road countries/regions	Sponsored the design sector to organise the “Hong Kong Designers Association Global Design Awards” and roving exhibitions to showcase award-winning entries, and participate in seminars outside Hong Kong	Facilitated exchanges between the trade and its counterparts outside Hong Kong and promoted Hong Kong’s design industry	About \$5.16 million
3.	June 2018	United Arab Emirates (UAE)	Led young architects and interior designers to conduct visits to the UAE and meet with the local trade	Enhanced the trade’s understanding of the market there and established contact between the trades of the two places	About \$0.31 million

4.	September 2018	Hungary	Led representatives of the film sector and members of the Film Development Council to participate in the 15 th Miskolc International Film Festival and attend the “Hong Kong Film Days” reception organised by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Berlin	Set up a communication platform for the trades of the two places and promoted Hong Kong’s film production services	About \$0.32 million
5.	September 2018	Singapore	Sponsored representatives of the advertising sector to participate in creative advertising festivals and workshops outside Hong Kong, namely the “Spikes Asia” and “Young Spikes Competitions” held in Singapore	Facilitated exchanges between the trade and its counterparts outside Hong Kong and promoted Hong Kong’s advertising industry	About \$0.11 million
6.	September 2018	Vietnam	Sponsored Hong Kong’s small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from various creative sectors to participate in the “In Style • Hong Kong” symposium held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam which included thematic seminars, exhibitions and market visits	Facilitated exchanges between the trade and their counterparts outside Hong Kong	About \$0.15 million
7.	September to October 2018	Korea, Ukraine and other non-Belt and Road countries/regions	Sponsored creative sectors to organise the “MaD Festival 2018/19” and networking activities between members of the trade and their counterparts abroad	Facilitated exchanges between the trade and their counterparts outside Hong Kong	About \$3.76 million

8.	October 2018	Belarus	Led representatives of the Hong Kong Printers Association to participate in some of the exchange activities and visits in Minsk of the “Business and Investment Mission to Minsk, Belarus and Addis Abba, Ethiopia” organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council	Enhanced the trade’s understanding of the market there and established contact between the trades of the two places	About \$0.16 million
9.	November 2018	Poland	Sponsored the Asian Film Awards Academy to participate in the “Five Flavours Asian Film Festival” in Warsaw	Showcased and promoted Hong Kong films to expand markets outside Hong Kong	About \$0.14 million
10.	November 2018	UAE and other non-Belt and Road countries/regions	Sponsored representatives of the design sector to participate in fashion weeks and exhibitions held outside Hong Kong	Showcased and promoted Hong Kong’s fashion brands to expand markets outside Hong Kong.	About \$5.45 million
11.	November 2018	Korea	Sponsored budding and small game companies to participate in the Korean international game exhibition G-Star and set up Hong Kong Pavilion in the exhibition	Facilitated exchanges between the trade and its counterparts outside Hong Kong and promoted Hong Kong’s game industry	About \$1.41 million
12.	February 2019	Malaysia	Led representatives of digital entertainment companies to meet and have exchanges with the local digital entertainment trade associations and companies	Enhanced the trade’s understanding of the market there, established contact between the sectors of the two places and promoted Hong Kong’s digital entertainment services and products	About \$0.14 million

13.	March 2019	Thailand	Sponsored representatives of the advertising sector to participate in “ADFEST” and “Young Lotus Workshop” held in Thailand	Facilitated exchanges between the trade and its counterparts outside Hong Kong and promoted Hong Kong’s advertising industry	About \$0.12 million
2019-20 (11 projects)					
14.	April 2019	Italy	Sponsored printers and publishers to set up Hong Kong Pavilion at the Bologna Children’s Book Fair in Italy	Facilitated exchanges between the trades and their counterparts outside Hong Kong and promoted Hong Kong’s printing and publishing industries	About \$3.06 million
15.	April 2019	UAE and other non-Belt and Road countries/regions	Sponsored fashion designers to participate in fashion weeks and exhibitions held outside Hong Kong	Showcased and promoted Hong Kong’s fashion brands to expand markets outside Hong Kong	About \$5.55 million
16.	September 2019	Italy	Sponsored the film sector to participate in the “Venice International Film Festival 2019”	Showcased and promoted Hong Kong films to expand markets outside Hong Kong	About \$0.36 million
17.	September 2019	Singapore	Sponsored representatives of the advertising sector to participate in “Spikes Asia” and “Young Spikes Competitions” held in Singapore	Facilitated exchanges between the trade and its counterparts outside Hong Kong and promoted Hong Kong’s advertising industry	About \$0.12 million
18.	September 2019	Korea and other non-Belt and Road countries/regions	Sponsored singer-songwriters and bands to perform outside Hong Kong	Facilitated exchanges between the trade and its counterparts outside Hong Kong and promoted Hong Kong’s music industry	About \$4.44 million

19.	October 2019	UAE and other non-Belt and Road countries/regions	Sponsored fashion designers to participate in fashion weeks and exhibitions held outside Hong Kong	Showcased and promoted Hong Kong's fashion brands to expand markets outside Hong Kong	About \$5.57 million
20.	November 2019	Portugal	Led representatives of Hong Kong's cinema trade to participate in the 21 st Europa Cinemas Network Conference	Exchanged experiences in audience building with European counterparts	About \$0.46 million
21.	November 2019	Poland	Sponsored the Asian Film Awards Academy to participate in the "Five Flavours Asian Film Festival" in Warsaw and organise film master classes	Showcased and promoted Hong Kong films to expand markets outside Hong Kong	About \$0.40 million
22.	November 2019	Singapore	Sponsored SMEs and tertiary students to participate in the outreach programme and networking activities at the "Asia Video Summit 2019" held in Singapore	Facilitated exchanges between the trade and its counterparts outside Hong Kong	About \$0.55 million
23.	November 2019	Myanmar	Led representatives of the design sector to meet and have exchanges with relevant government organisation and trade representatives of Myanmar's design sector	Enhanced the trade's understanding of the market there and established contact between the trades of the two places	About \$0.29 million
24.	December 2019	Malaysia	Sponsored Hong Kong's digital entertainment companies to set up Hong Kong Pavilion at the "Comic Fiesta 2019" held in Malaysia and visit their counterparts there	Enhanced the trade's understanding of the market there and established contact between the trade of the two places	About \$1.23 million
2020-21 (3 projects)					

25.	June 2020	UAE and other non-Belt and Road countries/regions	Sponsored fashion designers to participate in fashion weeks and exhibitions held outside Hong Kong	Showcased and promoted Hong Kong's fashion brands to expand markets outside Hong Kong	About \$5.45 million
26.	November to December 2020	Poland	Sponsored the Asian Film Awards Academy to participate in the "Five Flavours Asian Film Festival" in Warsaw to screen Asian films	Showcased and promoted Hong Kong films to expand markets outside Hong Kong	About \$0.27 million
27.	February 2021	Thailand	Sponsored representatives of the advertising sector to participate in "ADFEST" held in Thailand	Facilitated exchanges between the sector and its counterparts outside Hong Kong and promoted Hong Kong's advertising industry	About \$0.14 million

Including expenditure incurred in conducting the visits (e.g. air/train tickets, local transportation, accommodation, etc.) and/or organising the activities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)008

(Question Serial No. 0168)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

To enhance Hong Kong's position as a world-class telecommunications centre, the Administration needs to actively support the development of the fifth generation mobile (5G) networks and applications. In this connection, please inform this Committee of -

- (a) the key measures implemented and the major outcomes achieved by the Administration in this area in the past 2 years;
- (b) the estimated resources and manpower allocated in this area within 2021-22. Have specific proposals been formulated to harness 5G for driving the industry to participate in the development of a multi-functional e-Government service platform to tie in with the trends of big data development? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 25)

Reply:

In April 2020, the 4 mobile network operators (MNOs) launched 5G services. The coverage of each 5G network is now over 90%, covering major shopping centres and more than 50 MTR stations. The coverage of 5G networks of individual MNOs in core business districts is even over 99%.

The Government has launched a wide range of measures to facilitate the development of 5G, which include supply of spectrum, assisting the industry in conducting trials for 5G technology, opening up suitable government properties and public facilities (including sheltered bus stops, public payphone kiosks and multi-functional smart lampposts) to facilitate the installation of radio base stations by MNOs, subsidising fixed network operators to extend fibre-based networks to villages in remote areas, and encouraging early deployment of 5G technology by the public and private sectors.

The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved a provision of \$774.4 million in 2018 to implement the subsidy scheme to extend fibre-based networks to villages in remote areas. The Communications and Creative Industries Branch of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau has also earmarked a total of \$69.8 million to cover the administrative expenses incurred by the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) for the implementation of the subsidy scheme, including the creation of 10 time-limited civil service posts and non-civil service contract posts. A provision of \$55 million has been earmarked under the Anti-Epidemic Fund for the implementation of the scheme for encouraging early deployment of 5G. The financial impact of this measure will be absorbed by the Anti-epidemic Fund, which does not form part of the Appropriation Bill nor the estimates on the General Revenue Account. The manpower and expenditure involved in the remaining work for promoting the development of 5G mentioned above are met by the OFCA Trading Fund.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CCI)009****(Question Serial No. 0174)**

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 117 of the Financial Secretary's Budget that an additional \$1 billion will be injected into the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) in 2021-22 to continuously drive the development of creative industries. In this connection, please inform this Committee of -

- (a) the amount of resources actually allocated, the main work done and the outcomes achieved in the aforementioned area in the past 2 years;
- (b) the estimated resources and manpower to be allocated in this area in 2021-22. Has the Administration formulated specific proposals to expedite the use of the CSI to provide young people with more employment and business start-up opportunities, with a view to boosting economic recovery after the epidemic? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LO Wai-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

- (a) In 2019-20 and 2020-21, a total of 103 projects were approved under the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI), involving a total amount of around \$626.9 million. Those projects covered 3 strategic foci, namely (i) nurturing talent and facilitating start-ups; (ii) exploring markets; and (iii) fostering a creative atmosphere in the community. The relevant breakdown is tabulated below -

	2019-20 to 2020-21	
	Number of Projects Approved	Amount of Funding Approved (\$ million)
(i) Nurturing talent and facilitating start-ups	48	365.1
(ii) Exploring markets	37	126.8

	2019-20 to 2020-21	
	Number of Projects Approved	Amount of Funding Approved (\$ million)
(iii) Fostering a creative atmosphere in the community	18	135.0
Total	103	626.9

From April 2019 to December 2020, completed projects funded by the CSI have created about 4 390 job opportunities, provided more than 16 600 nurturing opportunities, enabled 30 creative talents to attain awards in international competitions, benefited 3 620 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), created 5 600 business contacts or enquiries for SMEs, and secured 1 050 business deals. In addition, CSI-funded projects have received 12 590 local and overseas media coverage, and also attracted a click rate of about 131.3 million on websites and social media platforms. Local and overseas publicity and media coverage have helped enhance the local public's appreciation of the creative sectors, and promote and display Hong Kong's soft strengths in the international community.

- (b) The estimated expenditure of the CSI in 2021-22 is about \$311.5 million. Pursuant to the three strategic foci of the CSI, Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) will enhance support to relevant projects, including (i) earmarking no less than 50% of the funding for projects that nurture talents (especially for grooming young talents in different sectors) and facilitate start-ups; (ii) seeking to expand our collaboration with different cities of design and creative sectors to identify more exchange opportunities for our tertiary students; (iii) working with industry stakeholders to support students or young practitioners for internships, exchange programmes, work placements or further studies in the Mainland or overseas after the epidemic; (iv) sponsoring young practitioners to participate in different local and international festivals/exhibitions and competitions to help broaden their exposure and gain experience, and to provide platforms for them to explore business opportunities and showcase their talents; (v) seeking to offer start-up companies coaching services; and (vi) providing continued support to the Design Incubation Programme and the Fashion Incubation Programme administered by the Hong Kong Design Centre.

CreateHK will continue to take the leading, co-ordinating and facilitating roles to initiate and foster cross-sectoral and cross-organisational collaborations with a view to creating more business opportunities for Hong Kong's creative industries.

Promoting the development of creative industries is part of the regular duties of CreateHK. The manpower and expenditure involved are included in the overall establishment and expenditure of the Communications and Creative Industries Branch of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, which cover general non-recurrent expenditure such as funding support to various projects under the CSI.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)010

(Question Serial No. 2319)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

On fostering the development of cultural and creative industries, please set out in tabular form -

- (a) specific measures which the Administration introduced last year to support sectors of cultural and creative industries (e.g. advertising, architecture, design, film and video, digital entertainment, music, publishing, software and computing, television and radio), and the expenditure involved in these measures;
- (b) specific measures which the Administration will formulate in the coming year to support sectors of cultural and creative industries (e.g. advertising, architecture, design, film and video, digital entertainment, music, publishing, software and computing, television and radio), and the budget involved in these measures. In addition, are there any measures to assist cultural and creative industries in addressing the impact brought about by the COVID-19 epidemic, and help them recover as soon as possible?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

- (a) In 2020-21, Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) promoted and supported the eight creative industries mainly through the Film Development Fund (FDF) and the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI), involving a total expenditure of about \$357 million.

Projects funded by the FDF and the CSI focus on nurturing talents and facilitating start-ups, such as the First Feature Film Initiative, the Skills Enhancement Programme for Hong Kong Filmmakers, the Hong Kong Film Professionals Overseas Training Programme, the HAF Film Lab, the Hong Kong Film Directors' Guild's In-depth Professional Training, the Scriptwriting Incubation Programme, the Design Incubation Programme, the Fashion Incubation Programme, the Nurturing Programme of Hong Kong Young Design Talents, the Support Programme for Advertising and Music

Talents, the Animation Support Programme, the Hong Kong Game Enhancement and Promotion Scheme, the Ear Up Record Label Creation and Incubation Programme, the Incubation Greater Bay Area Programme 2019, and the fresh graduate support schemes for the digital entertainment, digital advertising and design sectors respectively.

The funding was also used to support the trade in exploring the local market and beyond, including the support for the publishing and printing sector to join the Mainland book fairs; support for the fashion design sector to participate in major fashion shows outside Hong Kong; and support for the film industry to expand local and overseas markets for Hong Kong films and to build audience through the Hong Kong Film Culture and Audience Development Program, the Audience Development Programme for the Hong Kong International Film Festival, the One Belt One Road Hong Kong Film Gala Presentation and organising Hong Kong film festivals in nine European cities.

- (b) In 2021-22, CreateHK will continue to provide funding support for projects conducive to the development of the creative industries, with an estimated expenditure of about \$565 million.

Through the CSI, CreateHK will strengthen collaboration with other cities of design and among creative sectors, and will continue to nurture young talents by supporting students and young practitioners to participate in internships and exchange programmes, work placements or further studies and participate in local and international signature events and competitions; to offer start-ups coaching services; and to organise delegations to explore new markets for the trade.

The prolonged epidemic has brought fundamental changes to the local and international trade practices and operating environments. In this connection, CreateHK will use the new injection under the CSI to assist the trade in adapting to the digitisation trend and the challenges arising from the use of various virtual means to carry out exchanges and business activities online, to encourage the trade to keep pace with the times, to proactively promote physical and virtual dual platforms, to encourage cross-media and cross-sector co-operation, and to utilise Hong Kong's competitive edge and seize available market opportunities, e.g. those offered by the Greater Bay Area, the Belt and Road and the ASEAN markets. CreateHK will also work with the task force set up and led by the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) in promoting and sponsoring the development of Arts Tech with the HAB and the Innovation and Technology Bureau.

Regarding support for the film industry, to help the trade tide over the difficult period under the epidemic, the Government announced in mid-July 2020 that around \$260 million would be earmarked under the FDF to implement five major measures to increase the number of local film productions, nurture young directors and scriptwriting talents and enhance professional training, with a view to adding value to the industry. Through liaison with the trade and the subsequent launch of the five major measures as mentioned above, we receive positive response from the trade. The trade considers that the support measures are practical and sustainable, and help increase the number of high-quality local film productions and nurture more film

professionals, thereby benefitting both the industry and practitioners of different film disciplines and helping them seize the opportunities brought about by the economic recovery after the epidemic.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)011

(Question Serial No. 2320)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22 that (the Branch will continue to) administer, through Create Hong Kong, the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) to further promote the development of 7 non-film creative industries pursuant to the 3 strategic directions. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following -

- (a) Please list, according to the table below, the number of applications and the amount of funding approved under the CSI over the past 2 financial years by sectors of creative industries.

	Advertising	Architecture	Design	Digital entertainment	Printing and publishing	Television	Music	Others	Total
Number of projects approved in 2019-20									
Amount of funding approved in 2019-20									
Number of projects approved in 2020-21									
Amount of funding approved in 2020-21									

- (b) Among the applications approved under the CSI over the past 2 years, how many of them were related to (i) nurturing talents and facilitating start-ups, (ii) exploring markets, and (iii) fostering a creative atmosphere? What is the amount of funding approved for each aspect?
- (c) How many applications have been received under the CSI over the past 2 years and how many of them have been approved? For those unsuccessful applications, what are the major reasons for refusing them? Which sector of creative industries do they usually come from?
- (d) Does the Administration have any measures to encourage different sectors of creative industries to apply for CSI funding? Besides, what measures have been taken to encourage co-operation among different sectors of creative industries to apply for CSI funding?
- (e) Over the past year, has the Administration taken measures, through the CSI, to assist the 7 non-film creative industries in addressing the impact brought about by the epidemic on them, and help them recover after the epidemic? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons? For this year, will the Administration plan to assist them through the CSI in addressing the impact brought about by the epidemic? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 19)

Reply:

- (a) In 2019-20 and 2020-21, the number of project applications and the amount of funding approved under the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) by the 7 non-film creative sectors are tabulated below -

	2019-20		2020-21	
	Number of projects approved	Amount of funding approved (\$ million)	Number of projects approved	Amount of funding approved (\$ million)
Advertising	3	7.86	3	15.53
Architecture	2	8.18	0*	0*
Design	35	208.54	22	244.24
Digital entertainment	8	23.74	5	21.48
Printing and publishing	3	18.11	2	7.80
Television	1	0.55	1	0.80
Music	4	25.01	4	26.75

	2019-20		2020-21	
	Number of projects approved	Amount of funding approved (\$ million)	Number of projects approved	Amount of funding approved (\$ million)
Others (cross-disciplinary)	5	8.95	5	9.43
Total	61	300.93	42	326.02

* Due to the epidemic, 2 of the projects from the architecture sector approved before 2020-21 have applied for postponement of completion to 2021-22.

(b) In 2019-20 and 2020-21, the number of project applications and the amount of funding approved under the CSI by the three strategic foci are tabulated below -

	2019-20		2020-21	
	Number of projects approved	Amount of funding approved (\$ million)	Number of projects approved	Amount of funding approved (\$ million)
(i) Nurturing talents and facilitating start-ups	28	141.03	20	224.13
(ii) Exploring markets	24	89.56	13	37.18
(iii) Fostering a creative atmosphere in the community	9	70.33	9	64.71
Total	61	300.93	42	326.02

(c) The number of project applications received under the CSI in 2019-20 and 2020-21, and the processing status are tabulated below -

	2019-20	2020-21 (As at end-February 2021)
Number of project applications received	91	77
Number of projects approved	59	19
Number of projects rejected	16	12
Number of other projects (viz. applications withdrawn or under processing)	16	46

The main reasons for rejection of project applications under the CSI include: (i) objectives of the project are not in line with the CSI's strategic directions in driving the development of creative industries; (ii) deliverables of the project serve only the interests of individual private companies or organisations rather than the entire sector concerned; (iii) the project overlaps with the work of other approved project(s); and (iv) the project proponent is too optimistic about the expected outcome of the project, etc. Most of the rejected applications are from the design sector.

- (d) Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) liaises with different trade organisations consistently and encourages them to submit applications for promotion of the development of creative industries. It also offers advice to and liaise and co-ordinate among related organisations to facilitate collaborations. CreateHK will also continue to take the leading, co-ordinating and facilitating roles to initiate and foster cross-sectoral and cross-organisational collaborations with a view to creating more business opportunities for Hong Kong's creative industries.
- (e) During the epidemic, CreateHK has been maintaining close contact with the creative industries other than film to understand their respective needs amid the epidemic and to encourage them to submit applications in the light of the market trend. In addition, CreateHK also spares no efforts in fostering cross-sectoral collaborations to stimulate the diversified development of the trades and achieve a multi-win situation by, for example, sponsoring the project "The Music Must Go On 2020" to support the re-making of 113 past popular hits which created more than 800 jobs for the music sector during the epidemic; providing funding support for the industrial design sector to collaborate with local brands to design innovative products with a view to encouraging local brands to use more local designs to enhance competitiveness and achieve a win-win situation for both the design sector and brands. If projects approved under the CSI cannot be held as planned due to the prevailing epidemic, CreateHK is prepared to exercise flexibility in allowing postponement, changes in format and necessary adjustments to the budget to meet additional expenditures incurred. CreateHK also supported some projects for which overseas participation or exhibitions were not possible or local physical activities were not allowed to be held due to the epidemic, to use digital technology to launch virtual platforms, so that the projects can be taken forward locally or abroad.

The Government is acutely aware of the need to provide assistance to the trades to respond to the fundamental changes brought by the epidemic to the local and international trade practices and operating environments of the creative industries. CreateHK will use the new injection of \$1 billion to assist the design and other creative sectors in adapting to the digitisation trend and the challenges arising from the use of various virtual means to carry out exchanges and business activities online, to encourage the trades to keep pace with the times, to proactively promote physical and virtual dual platforms, and to encourage cross-media and cross-sector co-operation, with a view to developing Hong Kong's competitive edge and seizing available market opportunities, e.g. those offered by the Greater Bay Area, the Belt and Road and the ASEAN markets. CreateHK will also work with the task force set up and led by the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) in promoting and sponsoring the development of Arts Tech, together with the HAB and the Innovation and Technology Bureau.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)012

(Question Serial No. 2338)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22, it is mentioned that the Communications and Creative Industries Branch will continue to lead/sponsor delegations to the Mainland and Belt and Road countries and make use of opportunities pursuant to the development of the Greater Bay Area as well as the Belt and Road Initiative, with a view to developing new markets for the creative industries. In this connection, please advise this Committee of the following -

- (a) details, in tabular form, of delegations originally planned to be led/sponsored by the Administration in the past year, including the dates, destinations, purposes, industries involved, accompanying organisations and the expenditure incurred. What is the number of delegation visits cancelled or postponed due to the COVID-19 epidemic?
- (b) the outcome of the delegation visits led by the Administration in the past year for developing new markets for the creative industries;
- (c) details, in tabular form, of delegations to be led/sponsored by the Administration this year, including the dates, destinations, purposes, industries involved, accompanying organisations and the estimated expenditure to be incurred.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

- (a) In 2020-21, Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) originally planned to lead/sponsor 21 delegation visits to the Mainland and Belt and Road countries, 15 of which had to be cancelled or postponed due to the epidemic while the remaining ones were delivered through other modes. Details are at **Annex 1**.

- (b) Due to the epidemic, most of the planned delegation visits had to be cancelled or postponed, while 6 projects were delivered with online exchanges and exhibitions to showcase Hong Kong's creative products and services to the concerned countries and regions, despite the limitations posed by the epidemic. The projects have helped the creative industries in understanding the market and the latest developments in these countries and regions, with a view to strengthening communication and co-operation with the local enterprises and exploring more business opportunities. The Hong Kong organisers participating in the relevant projects generally agreed that the activities had achieved the intended purposes. The participants were also generally content with the changes necessitated by the epidemic.

- (c) In 2021-22, CreateHK plans to sponsor 12 creative sector delegations to the Mainland and Belt and Road countries, including those which are postponed from 2020-21 to 2021-22 due to the epidemic. The tentative arrangements of these projects are at **Annex 2**. CreateHK would continue to discuss with the trade to understand their market development needs, and consider organising or sponsoring more visits, subject to the development of the epidemic.

Details of Projects involving Creative Sector Delegation Visits to the Mainland and Belt and Road Countries planned in 2020-21 but cancelled or postponed due to the Epidemic

	Original Date	Concerned Country/ Region	Purpose	Concerned Industry/ Accompanying Organisation	Amount of Sponsorship Involved#	Updated Arrangement due to the Epidemic
1.	March to April 2020	Italy	To sponsor the sector to set up Hong Kong Pavilion at the Bologna Children's Book Fair in Italy to showcase the creativity and achievements of Hong Kong's printing and publishing sectors, and to assist the sectors to explore business opportunities	Representatives of the printing and publishing sectors	About \$5.38 million	The Hong Kong organiser decided to cancel their participation in the book fair
2.	March to November 2020	Beijing, Chengdu and Korea	To sponsor the sector to participate in Mainland or overseas music festivals to nurture local music talents and enhance public's interest in local music	Representatives of the music sector	About \$7.39 million	The Hong Kong organiser decided to cancel participation in the music festivals held in Beijing and Chengdu, and instead, to participate in the music festivals to be held in Korea and Thailand in 2021-22

3.	April 2020	Italy	To sponsor the sector to lead Hong Kong designers to Milan, Italy to showcase their works during the Milan Design Week 2020	Representatives of the design sector	About \$7.12 million	Since the Milan Design Week was postponed to September 2021, the Hong Kong organiser also postponed the corresponding visit
4.	April 2020	Italy	To sponsor the sector to lead Hong Kong designers to Milan, Italy to organise a furniture exhibition during the Milan Design Week 2020	Representatives of the design sector	About \$8.83 million	Since the Milan Design Week was postponed to September 2021, the Hong Kong organiser also postponed the corresponding visit
5.	April 2020	Italy	To sponsor young interior designers to visit the Milan Design Week 2020, local factories and interior design companies, and have exchanges with their counterparts	Representatives of the interior design sector	About \$6.01 million	Since the Milan Design Week was postponed to September 2021, the Hong Kong organiser decided to cancel the visit
6.	April to November 2020	Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Foshan, Zhongshan and Zhuhai	To sponsor the sector to organise a number of performances in tertiary institutes and live houses in the Greater Bay Area to nurture local music talents and promote local music	Representatives of the music sector	About \$9.18 million	The performances were tentatively postponed until April to November 2021

7.	May to November 2020	Italy	To sponsor the sector to participate in the “17 th Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition” (the Exhibition) to showcase the creativity of Hong Kong architects and promote Hong Kong’s architecture and urban development	Representatives of the architectural sector	About \$2.63 million	Since the Exhibition was tentatively postponed until May to November 2021, the Hong Kong organiser also postponed the corresponding visit
8.	June 2020	United Arab Emirates (UAE)	To sponsor representatives of the design sector to participate in fashion weeks and exhibitions held outside Hong Kong (including Dubai, UAE and other non-Belt and Road countries/regions)	Representatives of the fashion design sector	About \$5.45 million	The Hong Kong organiser switched to online participation
9.	July 2020	Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore	To sponsor the sector to organise the “One Belt One Road Hong Kong Film Gala Presentation 2020” to promote Hong Kong films to ASEAN countries and facilitate mutual co-operation and exchange	Representatives of the film sector	About \$6.67 million	The event was tentatively postponed until June to August 2021

10.	August to September 2020	Singapore	To sponsor the sector to participate in the “Spikes Asia” and “Young Spikes Competitions” held in Singapore to promote Hong Kong’s advertising industry	Representatives of winners of the “Kam Fan Awards” of the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of Hong Kong (HK4As)	About \$0.16 million	Since the events in Singapore were cancelled, the Hong Kong organiser also cancelled their participation
11.	August to September 2020	Beijing and Guangzhou	To sponsor the sector to set up Hong Kong Pavilions at the South China Book Festival in Guangzhou and the Beijing International Book Fair for showcasing the creativity and achievements of Hong Kong’s printing and publishing sectors and assisting the sectors in exploring business opportunities	Representatives of the printing and publishing sectors	About \$5.40 million	Since the Beijing International Book Fair was held online, the Hong Kong organiser decided not to participate in the event. Regarding the South China Book Festival in Guangzhou, the Hong Kong organiser decided to set up an online Hong Kong Pavilion, and offline sales booths in bookshops in Guangzhou and Shenzhen
12.	Third quarter of 2020	2 cities from Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Zhuhai or Macao	To sponsor representatives of the sector to visit the Greater Bay Area	Representatives of the urban design sector	About \$0.05 million	The visit was tentatively postponed to the second half of 2021

13.	October and November 2020	Chengdu and Hangzhou	To sponsor the sector to participate in the “SmartHK” held in Chengdu and Hangzhou with activities such as exhibitions and seminars to enhance Mainland enterprises’ understanding of Hong Kong’s creative and design sectors	Representatives of the creative and design sectors	About \$0.40 million	Activities in Chengdu were changed to online exhibitions and offline seminars, while activities in Hangzhou remained unchanged and continued to showcase Hong Kong designers’ works
14.	October to November 2020	UAE	To sponsor the sector to participate in fashion weeks and exhibitions held outside Hong Kong (including Dubai, UAE and other non-Belt and Road countries/regions) to promote Hong Kong’s fashion brands and expand overseas markets	Representatives of the fashion design sector	About \$5.63 million	The Hong Kong organiser decided to cancel their participation in the events

15.	November 2020	Shenzhen	To sponsor representatives of 20 shortlisted and outstanding teams of the “Design x Tech” accelerator final to visit large enterprises in Shenzhen and introduce their projects to potential investors	Representatives of the design sector	About \$0.04 million	The Hong Kong organiser decided to conduct online networking activities in March 2021
16.	November to December 2020	Poland	To sponsor the Asian Film Awards Academy to participate in the “Five Flavours Asian Film Festival” in Warsaw to screen Asian films (including 2 Hong Kong films)	Representatives of the film sector	About \$0.27 million	The Hong Kong organiser switched to online participation
17.	December 2020	Korea	To sponsor the sector to organise a graduate support scheme, including participation in the “SIGGRAPH Asia 2020” technical conferences and exhibitions held in Korea to nurture talents for the local digital entertainment sector	Graduates of digital entertainment-related disciplines	About \$0.64 million	Since the events in Korea were held online instead, the Hong Kong organiser decided to cancel their participation in the events

18.	Fourth quarter of 2020	UAE	To sponsor the sector to organise the “Unleash! Empowered by Design Thinking 2019/2020” with activities such as sponsoring representatives of the design sector to participate in an overseas creative leadership learning programme in Dubai, UAE	Representatives of the design sector	About \$8.81 million	The Hong Kong organiser decided to cancel the overseas creative leadership learning programme
19.	January 2021	Jiangmen and Zhongshan	To sponsor Hong Kong’s creative enterprises to organise exhibitions, business matchings, visits to creative hubs and networking activities in Jiangmen and Zhongshan	Representatives of the printing, digital advertising and design sectors	About \$0.10 million	The activities were tentatively postponed until August to September 2021
20.	February 2021	Thailand	To sponsor representatives of the advertising sector to participate in “ADFEST” held in Thailand	Representatives of winners of the “Kam Fan Awards” of the HK4As	About \$0.14 million	The Hong Kong organiser switched to online participation

21.	March 2021	Thailand	To sponsor Hong Kong's small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from various creative sectors to participate in the "In Style • Hong Kong" symposium held in Bangkok, Thailand to promote their services through thematic seminars, exhibitions and market visits	Design, creative and marketing SMEs	About \$0.14 million	Since the events in Thailand were tentatively postponed to July 2021, the Hong Kong organiser also postponed the corresponding events
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Including expenditure incurred in conducting the visits (e.g. air/train tickets, local transportation, accommodation, etc.) and/or organising the activities.

Details of Planned Projects involving Creative Sector Delegations to the Mainland and Belt and Road Countries in 2021-22

	Tentative Date	Concerned Country/ Region	Purpose	Concerned Industry/ Accompanying Organisation	Amount of Sponsorship Involved#
1.	April to November 2021	Korea and Thailand (including other non-Belt and Road countries/regions)	To sponsor the sector to participate in music festivals outside Hong Kong to nurture local music talents and enhance public's interest in local music	Representatives of the music sector	About \$7.39 million
2.	April to November 2021	Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Foshan, Zhongshan and Zhuhai	To sponsor the sector to organise a number of performances in tertiary institutes and live houses in the Greater Bay Area to nurture local music talents and promote local music	Representatives of the music sector	About \$9.18 million
3.	May 2021	Guangzhou and Zhejiang	To sponsor the sector to organise the "Neo Luma - Market Expansion into Mainland China Film Market" to provide Hong Kong's film sector with training and internship opportunities, with a view to promoting exchanges and communication between the sectors of the two places	Representatives of the film sector	About \$2.90 million
4.	May to November 2021	Italy	To sponsor the sector to participate in the "17 th Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition" to showcase the creativity of Hong Kong architects and promote Hong Kong's architecture and urban development	Representatives of the architectural sector	About \$2.63 million

5.	June to August 2021	Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore	To sponsor the sector to organise the “One Belt One Road Hong Kong Film Gala Presentation 2021” to promote Hong Kong films to ASEAN countries and enhance mutual co-operation and exchange	Representatives of the film sector	About \$6.67 million
6.	July 2021	Thailand	To sponsor Hong Kong’s small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from various creative sectors to participate in the “In Style • Hong Kong” symposium held in Bangkok, Thailand to promote their services through thematic seminars, exhibitions and market visits	Design, creative and marketing SMEs	About \$0.14 million
7.	August to September 2021	Jiangmen and Zhongshan	To sponsor Hong Kong’s creative enterprises to organise exhibitions, business matchings, visits to creative hubs and networking activities in Jiangmen and Zhongshan	Representatives of the printing, digital advertising and design sectors	About \$0.10 million
8.	September 2021	Italy	To sponsor the sector to lead Hong Kong designers to Milan, Italy to showcase their works during the Milan Design Week 2021	Representatives of the design sector	About \$3.09 million
9.	September 2021	Italy	To sponsor the sector to lead Hong Kong designers to Milan, Italy to organise a furniture exhibition during the Milan Design Week 2021	Representatives of the design sector	About \$8.83 million
10.	September 2021	Italy	To sponsor the Asian Film Awards Academy to participate in the “Salento International Film Festival” to screen Asian films	Representatives of the film sector	About \$0.27 million
11.	Second half of 2021	2 cities from Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Zhuhai or Macao	To sponsor representatives of the urban design sector to visit the Greater Bay Area	Representatives of the urban design sector	About \$0.05 million

12.	January 2022	Shanghai, Zhuhai and Malaysia	To sponsor the sector to lead winners of the “Hong Kong Designers Association Global Design Awards 2021” (the Awards) to organise seminars in various cities to promote the Awards and winning designers	Winners of the Awards	About \$0.21 million
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Including expenditure incurred in conducting the visits (e.g. air/train tickets, local transportation, accommodation, etc.) and/or organising the activities.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CCI)013****(Question Serial No. 2347)**

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

- (a) The Government announced in July 2020 that around \$260 million under the Film Development Fund would be earmarked to implement 5 major measures to increase the number of local film productions, nurture young directors and scriptwriting talents and enhance professional training, with a view to adding value to the industry and helping industry practitioners tide over the difficulties brought about by the COVID-19 epidemic. Please provide information according to the following table.

	Estimated expenditure	Expenditure spent	Number of beneficiaries	Implementation progress
(i) Directors' Succession Scheme				
(ii) Film Production Financing Scheme				
(iii) Scriptwriting Incubation Programme				
(iv) Sponsoring the trade to provide free short-term advanced training courses				
(v) First Feature Film Initiative				

- (b) Has the Administration sought to understand further from members of the film industry about their needs amid the epidemic, so as to introduce more support measures? If so, what are the details and the expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 54)

Reply:

- (a) The Government announced in July 2020 that around \$260 million under the Film Development Fund (FDF) would be earmarked to implement five major measures. Details of the measures are tabulated below -

Name of the Measure	Details
(i) Directors' Succession Scheme	There are five director teams participating in the first round of the Scheme. Each film production would be granted a subsidy of around \$9 million. Principal photography of the film projects is expected to commence within 2021 the earliest.
(ii) Film Production Financing Scheme (Relaxation Plan)	In response to positive feedback from the industry, the original application deadline of the six-month relaxation measures was extended for 6 months to 14 July 2021. As at mid-March 2021, a total of 13 applications were received, with three applications approved, one rejected, one withdrawn and the remaining eight under processing. We expect that around 10 film productions would benefit, involving a total government financing of around \$100 million.
(iii) Scriptwriting Incubation Programme	Application was closed on 14 October 2020. The response was enthusiastic, with around 1 550 applications received and vetting is underway. The announcement of shortlisted entries to enter the next phase of the competition is scheduled for the 2 nd quarter of 2021. We have earmarked funding of around \$8 million for implementing the Programme.
(iv) Sponsoring the trade to provide free short-term advanced training courses	The Federation of Hong Kong Filmmakers and the Hong Kong Film Directors' Guild have received a total of around \$20 million subsidies from the FDF to organise the "Skills Enhancement Programme for Hong Kong Filmmakers" and the "Hong Kong Film Directors' Guild's In-depth Professional Training" respectively. The programmes were successfully completed in January 2021 and December 2020 respectively, with participation of a total of around 2 200 industry practitioners.

Name of the Measure	Details
(v) First Feature Film Initiative (FFFI)	<p>Five winning projects of the 6th FFFI were announced in mid-July 2020, involving a total funding of around \$31 million. The winning teams are now taking forward the preparation work. Principal photography of the film projects is expected to commence within 2021.</p> <p>The 7th FFFI is open for application on 15 March 2021. The deadline is 21 May 2021.</p>

- (b) When formulating measures to support the local film industry, the Government has all along consulted the Film Development Council (FDC) and the industry, and invited relevant stakeholders to provide views on implementation details, with a view to ensuring that the measures are practicable. Through liaison with the industry and the subsequent launch of a series of measures and support as mentioned above, the film industry has responded positively. The industry considers that the support measures are practical and sustainable, and help increase the number of high-quality local film productions and nurture more film professionals, thereby benefitting both the industry and practitioners of different film disciplines.

The Government will continue to liaise closely with the FDC and the sector to draw up appropriate measures, with a view to making good use of the FDF to support the long-term development of the local film industry.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)014

(Question Serial No. 2348)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Regarding the operation of the Film Development Fund (FDF), please provide the following information -

- (a) please list, in tabular form, the date of release, number of days released, number of audience, box office receipt, amount of government funding and government's dividend of each film production financed by the Film Production Financing Scheme (FPFS) in the past 2 years;
- (b) please list, in tabular form, the date of release, number of days released, number of audience and box office receipt of each film production funded by the Film Production Grant Scheme (FPGS) in the past 2 years;
- (c) please list, in tabular form, the titles and contents of films rejected, amounts of funding applied and reasons for rejection under the FPFS and FPGS respectively in the past 2 years;
- (d) please list, in tabular form, details of the 4 strategic directions of the FDF, and the themes and expenditure of all projects by strategic direction in the past 2 years;
- (e) please list, in tabular form, the number of film productions served by the Film Services Office in the past 2 years.

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 55)

Reply:

- (a) & (b) Information on films funded by the Film Production Financing Scheme (FPFS) and the Film Production Grant Scheme (FPGS) respectively and released during the period from 2019 to 2020 is at **Annex 1**.
- (c) List of applications rejected under the FPFS during the period from 2019 to 2020 is at **Annex 2**.

Applications under the FPFS are first assessed by the Assessment Panel comprising professionals from the film sector, then the Fund Vetting Committee under the Film Development Council. The assessment criteria include “creativity and quality of screenplay”, “production budget”, “estimated income” and “local film production elements and talent nurturing”. The listed applications were rejected mainly due to inadequacies in the aforementioned aspects.

As the FPGS has ceased accepting applications since 2018, there were no rejected applications during the period from 2019 to 2020.

- (d) List of projects funded by the Film Development Fund during the period from 2019 to 2020 in accordance with the four strategic directions (viz. nurturing talent, enhancing local production, expanding markets and building audience) is at **Annex 3**.
- (e) The number of film productions served by the Film Services Office (e.g. liaising and co-ordinating among various government departments on matters relating to applications for filming in public places (especially those involving road closure) and other venues (such as government premises), assisting production crews in applying for location scouting, etc.) during the period from 2019 to 2020 is tabulated below -

Year	2019	2020
Local production	43	26
Overseas production	6	3
Total	49	29

**Films Funded by the Film Production Financing Scheme (FPFS) and
the Film Production Grant Scheme (FPGS) respectively
and Released during the Period from 2019 to 2020**

Film Title	Date of Release	Number of Days Released	Box Office Receipt¹ (HK\$)	Amount of Government Funding (HK\$)
FPFS²				
“I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change”	31 January 2019	34	8,947,057	5,200,000
“The Secret Diary of a Mom to be”	13 February 2020	41	501,180	3,750,000
FPGS³				
“The Lady Improper”	4 April 2019	20	4,160,052	2,000,000
“Beyond the Dream”	2 July 2020	153	15,292,371	1,200,000

¹ Excluding box office receipt outside Hong Kong.

² No records on the number of audience. Since the incomes of films are still under settlement, the government’s dividends have yet to be confirmed.

³ No records on the number of audience.

**Applications Rejected under the Film Production Financing Scheme
during the Period from 2019 to 2020**

	Film Title	Content	Amount of Funding Applied (HK\$)
2019			
1.	“The Beloved Voicemails”	The experience of a mediator.	5,340,000
2.	“Shadowless”	A story of gaining power by dreaming.	5,836,348
3.	“Time”	A story of a group of over-the-hill killers.	6,000,000
4.	“Keep Rolling”	A story of finishing a film production by alternative means.	4,200,000
5.	“The Three Realms”	A wife seeking revenge for her late husband.	5,904,500
6.	“Singer and Stranger”	A singer meeting a mysterious female fan.	6,000,000
7.	“The Grand Grandmaster”	A Lunar New Year comedy.	6,000,000
8.	《極速一秒》 (English title not yet available)	A story of a traffic accident changing the future of 3 persons.	5,940,000
9.	“My Indian Boyfriend”	A love story of a female university student and an Indian youth.	2,200,000
10.	“The Path of Us”	A story of a patient suffering from a terminal illness and abandoning euthanasia.	2,216,000
2020			
11.	“Ready or Knot”	A marriage wrestle between a couple.	2,813,200
12.	“Send the Wedding Invitations”	A story triggered by the sending of wedding invitation cards.	4,400,000
13.	“Beware of the Wolves”	A story of the protagonists unlocking the secrets of their heart when escaping from the hungry wolf valley.	4,000,000
14.	“Timeless”	A story of the protagonist looking for his ex-lover to redeem himself through space-time travel.	4,057,280
15.	“Unbearable Fear”	A story of the Manila hostage incident.	4,000,000

**Projects Funded by the Film Development Fund
during the Period from 2019 to 2020 in accordance with the Four Strategic Directions**

Project Title	Approved Amount (HK\$)
(1) Nurturing Talent	
Realization and Transformation of Film Entertainment Media ⁴	1,133,322
Hong Kong Film Professionals Overseas Training Program 2019-2020	2,047,038
HAF Film Lab 2019	912,200
Master Class in Film Directing (2020)	4,508,950
New Journey of Dubbing	533,000
Skills Enhancement Programme for Hong Kong Filmmakers	9,736,500
Hong Kong Film Directors' Guild - In-depth Professional Training	9,885,400
Scriptwriting Incubation Programme	8,200,000
The 6 th First Feature Film Initiative	31,000,000
HAF Film Lab 2020	688,700
Hong Kong Documentary Initiative - Video Learning Platform	853,400
HKEIMC 2020 Annual Institutional Convention Conference	1,019,516
The 6 th Film Professionals Training Programme ¹	8,879,838
Hong Kong Film Professional Overseas Training Program 2020-2022	3,602,130
(2) Enhancing Local Production	
Financing nine film projects under the Film Production Financing Scheme	36,651,488
(3) Expanding Markets	
Entertainment Expo Hong Kong 2019	1,754,634
Sponsorship for "Port of Call" to represent Hong Kong to compete for the Foreign Language Film Award of the 89 th Academy Awards (2017)	274,359
Sponsorship for "Three Husbands" to participate in the "Tokyo International Film Festival 2018" (Competition Section)	119,845
Sponsorship for "Three Husbands" to participate in the "Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival 2018" (Competition Section) ¹	155
Sponsorship for "Tracey" to participate in the "Tokyo International Film Festival 2018" (Competition Section)	120,000
Sponsorship for "I've Got the Blues" to participate in the "Vancouver International Film Festival 2017" (Non-competition Section)	40,408
The 18 th Hong Kong-Asia Film Financing Forum	8,107,775
Sponsorship for "Operation Red Sea" to represent Hong Kong to compete for Best Foreign Language Film in the 91 st Academy Award (2019)	400,000
One Belt One Road Hong Kong Film Gala Presentation 2020	6,844,220
Entertainment Expo Hong Kong 2020	1,788,780
Sponsorship for "No. 7 Cherry Lane" to participate in the "Venice	360,000

⁴ The applicant withdrew the application after approval.

Project Title	Approved Amount (HK\$)
International Film Festival 2019” (Competition Section)	
Sponsorship for “Suk Suk” to participate in the “Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival 2019” (Competition Section)	79,525
Neo Luma - Market Expansion into Mainland China Film Market	2,900,377
Sponsorship for “Suk Suk” to participate in the “Berlin International Film Festival 2020” (Competition Section)	40,475
Sponsorship for the distribution of “When Sun Meets Moon” (Cantonese version) in the Mainland	500,000
(4) Building Audience	
Hong Kong International Film Festival Society - Cine Fan Programme 2019-20	7,397,335
Hong Kong Cinema - Changing Faces for International Film Festivals: Presentation of Hong Kong Film Talents and the Cannes Directors’ Fortnight	1,095,372
The 38 th Hong Kong Film Awards Presentation Ceremony	6,200,000
Indie Focus 2019: The Local Power of Québécois Independent Film	325,700
Weekend-DocFan	658,980
Hong Kong International Documentary Festival 2019: Polish Documentary Feature	592,200
Hong Kong Kids International Film Festival	704,500
New Cinema Collective	692,500
Hong Kong Film Culture and Audience Development Program (Year 2019-2020)	3,697,030
Revisiting Ringo Lam’s Film Programme	530,320
Audience Development Programme for the 44 th Hong Kong International Film Festival	3,373,650
The 39 th Hong Kong Film Awards Presentation Ceremony	9,907,400
Revisiting Hong Kong Film Critics Society Awards - Best of the Best HK Movie	315,500
Hong Kong Cinema - Changing Faces for International Film Festivals : The Presentation of Hong Kong Film Talents and the Busan International Film Festival	1,792,795
Hong Kong International Documentary Festival 2020: French Documentary Feature	711,160
Development of Audio Description Services for Hong Kong Films 2020-2022	3,663,293
Hong Kong Film Culture and Audience Development Program (Year 2020-2022)	6,627,498

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CCI)015****(Question Serial No. 3143)**

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not specified

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Will the Bureau please provide the balance, government injection amount, investment or other income and total expenditure of the funds below in 2019-20? If there are other funds within the purview of the Bureau not being listed below, please also provide information as per the items above.

- (1) Community Involvement Broadcasting Fund
- (2) Film Development Fund
- (3) CreateSmart Initiative

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 76)

Reply:

	2019-20 (Note)		Up to 2019-20	
	Injection amount (\$ million)	Total expenditure (\$ million)	Cumulative expenditure (\$ million)	Balance (\$ million)
(1) Community Involvement Broadcasting Fund	-	8.79	40.53	4.47
(2) Film Development Fund (FDF)	1,000.00	66.03	516.38	1,023.62
(3) CreateSmart Initiative	-	301.85	1,282.95	717.05

Note: The Government's profit sharing for FDF-funded applications in 2019-20 was about \$4.78 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)016

(Question Serial No. 2427)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Regarding the enhancement of coverage of higher speed fixed broadband network, will the Administration inform this Committee of the following -

At present, the subsidy scheme to extend fibre-based networks to villages in remote areas has covered 235 villages. What is the expected coverage of the higher speed fixed broadband network after the completion of all tender projects? If the coverage does not reach 100%, will the remaining villages in remote areas be included in the scheme? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 63)

Reply:

The subsidy scheme to extend fibre-based networks to villages in remote areas (the subsidy scheme) benefits villages located far away from the existing fibre-based backbone networks of fixed network operators (FNOs), where villagers can only choose broadband services delivered over copper-based networks at a speed of 10 megabits per second (Mbps) or below. After the completion of the rollout of fibre-based networks by FNOs subsidised under the subsidy scheme, the broadband speed at the villages concerned can increase to at least 25 Mbps. Stability of service can also improve. If the villagers reach a commercial agreement with an FNO to allow the latter to roll out fibre-based networks within the village, the broadband speed can further increase substantially to a level which is comparable to that in the urban areas (e.g. 500 Mbps or 1 000 Mbps).

The subsidy scheme has already covered most of the remote recognised villages in the New Territories and on outlying islands located far away from the existing fibre-based backbone networks of FNOs. The remaining areas not having access to fibre-based networks are mainly locations which are very remote and sparsely populated, e.g. villages on Tung Ping Chau and Po Toi Island. Since these islands currently do not have a reliable power supply to support the operation of telecommunications facilities, they are not included in the subsidy scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CCI)017****(Question Serial No. 2395)**

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The Budget mentions that an additional \$1 billion will be injected into the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI). The Government established the CSI in 2009 to support the development of creative industries. What is the total injection into the CSI so far? What are the number of projects approved by year from 2009 to 2020 and the total amount of funding involved? What is the total operating cost per annum? What is the total number of international awards attained?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 24)

Reply:

Since the establishment of the CreateSmart (CSI) in June 2009, a total of \$2 billion (\$300 million in 2009, \$300 million in 2013, \$400 million in 2016 and \$1 billion in 2018) has been injected into the CSI to support the development of Hong Kong's creative industries. As at end-2020, the CSI supported a total of 577 projects and the amount of funding approved was \$1,808.45 million. Creative talents sponsored by the CSI have attained around 120 awards in various international competitions. The number of projects approved and the amount of funding supported by year are tabulated below -

Year	Number of Projects Approved	Amount of Funding Approved (\$ million)
2009 (From June)	12	19.87
2010	29	54.80
2011	29	71.82
2012	50	91.44
2013	61	95.09
2014	65	94.08
2015	65	123.54
2016	49	235.83

Year	Number of Projects Approved	Amount of Funding Approved (\$ million)
2017	51	137.76
2018	57	223.52
2019	61	305.35
2020	48	355.36
Total	577	1,808.45

Promoting the development of creative industries is part of the regular duties of Create Hong Kong. The manpower and expenditure involved are included in the overall establishment and expenditure of the Communications and Creative Industries Branch of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)018

(Question Serial No. 0700)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The dedicated team who reviewed the governance and management of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) submitted a review report and provided recommendations on improvement measures to RTHK. How does the Administration ensure that RTHK will critically examine the issues identified in the report, and draw up priority reform measures, an action plan and a timetable to fully implement the recommendations, so as to ensure a quality public broadcasting service for the community, and to strengthen confidence in the work of RTHK?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 41)

Reply:

On 19 February 2021, the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) released the Governance and Management of Radio Television Hong Kong Review Report (the Review Report). The Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) management will study the Review Report in detail, and follow up by drawing up priority improvement measures, an action plan and a timetable to fully implement the recommendations. CEDB will closely monitor the progress of the reform of RTHK. In the process, RTHK will seek advice from the RTHK Board of Advisors and other stakeholders. It will also actively improve its routine administration, human resources, finance, procurement matters and information technology management and comply with all applicable government regulations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)019

(Question Serial No. 0701)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Will the Administration please inform this Committee of the policy initiatives undertaken by the Government to promote the development of 5G services in Hong Kong, the outcomes achieved, and the manpower and expenditure involved during the past 2 years? In addition, what is the work plan of the Administration for supporting the rollout of 5G infrastructure this year? What are the staffing and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 42)

Reply:

In April 2020, the 4 mobile network operators (MNOs) launched 5G services. The coverage of each 5G network is now over 90%, covering major shopping centres and more than 50 MTR stations. The coverage of 5G networks of individual MNOs in core business districts is even over 99%.

The Government has launched a wide range of measures to facilitate the development of 5G, which include supply of spectrum, assisting the industry in conducting trials for 5G technology, opening up suitable government properties and public facilities (including sheltered bus stops, public payphone kiosks and multi-functional smart lampposts) to facilitate the installation of radio base stations by MNOs, subsidising fixed network operators to extend fibre-based networks to villages in remote areas, and encouraging early deployment of 5G technology by the public and private sectors.

The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved a provision of \$774.4 million in 2018 to implement the subsidy scheme to extend fibre-based networks to villages in remote areas. The Communications and Creative Industries Branch of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau has also earmarked a total of \$69.8 million to cover the administrative expenses incurred by the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) for the implementation of the subsidy scheme, including the creation of 10 time-limited civil service posts and non-civil service contract posts. A provision of \$55 million has been

earmarked under the Anti-Epidemic Fund for the implementation of the scheme for encouraging early deployment of 5G. The financial impact of this measure will be absorbed by the Anti-epidemic Fund, which does not form part of the Appropriation Bill nor the estimates on the General Revenue Account. The manpower and expenditure involved in the work for promoting the development of 5G mentioned above are met by the OFCA Trading Fund.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CCI)020****(Question Serial No. 0702)**

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Regarding the progress of encouraging the extension of fibre-based networks to villages in remote areas, will the HKSAR Government please reply to the following -

- (a) In the past year, the number and names of villages which have been covered by fibre-based networks, the connection speed and the relevant expenditure; and
- (b) In the past year, the number and names of villages which have not yet been covered by fibre-based networks?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

Reply:

The Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) is responsible for implementing the subsidy scheme to extend fibre-based networks to villages in remote areas (the subsidy scheme). It has awarded all the 6 tender projects in 2019 and 2020. The selected fixed network operators are extending fibre-based networks to 235 villages across 9 districts in the New Territories and on outlying islands in phases from this year onwards. The details are as follows –

Financial year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Estimated number of villages where the rollout of fibre-based networks under the subsidy scheme will be completed (Percentage)	29 villages (12.3%)	84 villages (35.7%)	69 villages (29.4%)	38 villages (16.2%)	15 villages (6.4%)

The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved a provision of \$774.4 million in 2018 to implement the subsidy scheme. The Communications and Creative Industries

Branch of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau has also earmarked a total of \$69.8 million to cover the administrative expenses incurred by OFCA for the implementation of the subsidy scheme, including the creation of 10 time-limited civil service posts and non-civil service contract posts.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)021

(Question Serial No. 0716)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22, the Administration has mentioned that (the Branch) will continue to administer, through Create Hong Kong, the CreateSmart Initiative to further promote the development of 7 non-film creative industries pursuant to the 3 strategic directions, namely nurturing talents and facilitating start-ups, exploring markets, and fostering a creative atmosphere in the community. Will the Administration please inform this Committee –

- (a) whether there is specific planning and whether the outcomes achieved by the related work have been anticipated;
- (b) of the staffing and estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 59)

Reply:

- (a) The Government will inject \$1 billion into the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) to sustain support for the creative industries, with the creative industries as a driving force of our economic development. The CSI will continue to adopt a “partnership approach”, whereby the industry would initiate and implement projects with funding support from the Government. Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) will continue to take the leading, co-ordinating and facilitating roles to initiate and foster cross-sectoral and cross-organisational collaborations. The split of the funding injection, premised on the 3 strategic foci of the CSI, will broadly be -
 - (i) nurturing talent and facilitating start-ups (approximately 50%);
 - (ii) exploring markets (approximately 25%); and
 - (iii) promoting Hong Kong as Asia’s creative capital and fostering a creative atmosphere in the community (approximately 25%).

In addition, CreateHK will use the new injection to assist the design and other creative sectors in adapting to the digitisation trend and the challenges arising from the use of various virtual means to carry out exchanges and business activities online, to encourage the trade to keep pace with the times, to proactively promote physical and virtual dual platforms, and to encourage cross-media and cross-sector co-operation, with a view to developing Hong Kong's competitive edge and seizing available market opportunities, e.g. those offered by the Greater Bay Area, the Belt and Road and the ASEAN markets. CreateHK will also work with the task force set up and led by the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) in promoting and sponsoring the development of Arts Tech, together with the HAB and the Innovation and Technology Bureau.

From the macro perspective, there has been growth in real terms since the establishment of the CSI in 2009 regarding both the numbers of persons (from 123 330 in 2009 to 136 880 in 2019) and establishments (from 21 320 in 2009 to 28 780 in 2019) engaged in these industries. Intangible benefits brought about by the CSI-funded projects included an enhanced international profile of Hong Kong and recognition of Hong Kong as a city of creativity and design by international media. The local and overseas publicity and media coverage attracted by the CSI-funded projects have enhanced the local public's appreciation of the creative sectors as well as promoted Hong Kong's soft strengths abroad.

- (b) Promoting the development of creative industries is part of the regular duties of CreateHK. The manpower and expenditure involved are included in the overall establishment and expenditure of the Communications and Creative Industries Branch of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, which cover general non-recurrent expenditure such as funding support to various projects under the CSI.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0717)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22, the Administration has mentioned that (the Branch) will continue to administer, through Create Hong Kong, the Film Development Fund to support further development of the film sector under the 4 strategic directions, namely nurturing talent, enhancing local production, expanding markets and building audience. Please inform this Committee -

- (a) whether there is specific planning and whether the outcomes achieved by such work have been anticipated;
- (b) of the staffing and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 60)

Reply:

- (a) The Government has all long been supporting projects conducive to the long-term development of Hong Kong's film industry through the Film Development Fund (FDF) under the four strategic directions, namely nurturing talent, enhancing local production, expanding markets and building audience, to promote the long-term development of the film industry.

In 2021-22, the Government will continue to support projects and activities to facilitate the long-term development of the local film industry through various funding schemes under the FDF, such as the Film Production Financing Scheme (FPFS), the First Feature Film Initiative (FFFI) and the Scheme for Funding Other Film-related Projects (e.g. film festivals and screenings held locally and outside Hong Kong, various exchanges and visits, workshops, investment and trade fairs, etc.), and five major support measures aiming to provide assistance to the film industry in response to the epidemic (viz. the Directors' Succession Scheme, relaxation measures of the FPFS, the Scriptwriting Incubation Programme, sponsoring the trade to provide free short-term advanced training courses, and enhancement to the FFFI), etc.

It is expected that the series of measures mentioned above can attract more than 35 local film productions, incubate about 25 scripts and nurture more than 20 new film directors; the sponsored free short-term advanced training courses organised by the trade have benefitted a total of around 2 200 industry practitioners; and the online seminars and educational videos have reached a total viewership of more than 75 000 people. In addition, in 2021-22, the FDF is expected to sponsor about 30 other film-related projects initiated by the sector and are conducive to the long-term development of the local film industry, thereby benefitting the industry and practitioners of various film disciplines.

- (b) Supporting the operation of the FDF is part of the regular duties of Create Hong Kong. The manpower and expenditure involved are included in the overall establishment and expenditure of the Communications and Creative Industries Branch of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)023

(Question Serial No. 0718)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Regarding sponsoring the creative industries to showcase their work to Belt and Road countries, please inform this Committee of the details and progress of projects implemented in the past 3 years, the numbers and types of enterprises involved, the government department(s) involved, and the relevant manpower and expenditure.

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 61)

Reply:

Details of the projects involving creative sector delegations led/sponsored to Belt and Road countries to showcase the sectors' work from 2018-19 to 2020-21 are at the **Annex**.

Projects involving Creative Sector Delegations Led/Sponsored to Belt and Road Countries to Showcase the Sectors' Work from 2018-19 to 2020-21

	Date	Concerned Country/ Region	Details	Type of Enterprises Involved	Expenditure/ Amount of Sponsorship Involved#
2018-19 (13 Projects)					
1.	May to November 2018	Italy	Sponsored the architectural sector to set up the Hong Kong Pavilion at the "16 th Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition"	Members of the architectural sector	About \$2.62 million
2.	June 2018	Korea and other non-Belt and Road countries/ regions	Sponsored the design sector to organise the "Hong Kong Designers Association Global Design Awards" and roving exhibitions to showcase award-winning entries, and to lead design talents to participate in seminars outside Hong Kong	Members of the design sector	About \$5.16 million
3.	June 2018	United Arab Emirates (UAE)	Led young architects and interior designers to conduct visits to the UAE and meet with the local trade	Young architects and interior designers	About \$0.31 million

4.	September 2018	Hungary	Led representatives of the film sector and members of the Film Development Council (FDC) to participate in the 15 th Miskolc International Film Festival and attend the “Hong Kong Film Days” reception organised by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Berlin	Representatives of the film sector and members of the FDC	About \$0.32 million
5.	September 2018	Singapore	Sponsored representatives of the advertising sector to participate in creative advertising festivals and workshops outside Hong Kong, including the “Spikes Asia” and “Young Spikes Competitions” held in Singapore	Representatives of winners of the “Kam Fan Awards” and the “Young Creative Competition” of the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of Hong Kong (HK4As)	About \$0.11 million
6.	September 2018	Vietnam	Sponsored small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from various creative sectors to participate in the “In Style • Hong Kong” symposium held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam with activities such as thematic seminars, exhibitions and market visits	Representatives of the SMEs	About \$0.15 million

7.	September to October 2018	Korea, Ukraine and other non-Belt and Road countries/regions	Sponsored creative sectors to organise the “MaD Festival 2018/19” with activities such as sharing sessions and practical workshops , to host the international assembly and to sponsor creative talents to attend networking activities outside Hong Kong	Members of the creative sectors	About \$3.76 million
8.	October 2018	Belarus	Led representatives of the Hong Kong Printers Association to participate in some exchange activities and visits in Minsk under the “Business and Investment Mission to Minsk, Belarus and Addis Abba, Ethiopia” organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council	Representatives of the printing enterprises and associations	About \$0.16 million
9.	November 2018	Poland	Sponsored the Asian Film Awards Academy to participate in the “Five Flavours Asian Film Festival” in Warsaw to screen two Hong Kong films	Members of the film sector	About \$0.14 million
10.	November 2018	UAE and other non-Belt and Road countries/regions	Sponsored representatives of the design sector to participate in fashion weeks and exhibitions held outside Hong Kong (including Dubai, UAE)	Representatives of the fashion design sector	About \$5.45 million

11.	November 2018	Korea	Sponsored game companies to participate in the Korean international game exhibition G-Star and set up the Hong Kong Pavilion at the exhibition	Representatives of budding and small game companies	About \$1.41 million
12.	February 2019	Malaysia	Led representatives of the digital entertainment sector to meet and conduct exchanges with the local digital entertainment trade associations and companies	Representatives of the digital entertainment companies	About \$0.14 million
13.	March 2019	Thailand	Sponsored representatives of the advertising sector to participate in “ADFEST” and “Young Lotus Workshop” held in Thailand	Representatives of winners of the “Kam Fan Awards” and the “Young Creative Competition” of the HK4As	About \$0.12 million
2019-20 (12 projects)					
14.	April 2019	Italy	Sponsored the printing and publishing sector to set up the Hong Kong Pavilion at the Bologna Children’s Book Fair in Italy	Members of the publishing and printing sector	About \$3.06 million
15.	April 2019	UAE and other non-Belt and Road countries/regions	Sponsored representatives of the design sector to participate in fashion weeks and exhibitions held outside Hong Kong	Representatives of the fashion design sector	About \$5.55 million
16.	May 2019	Korea and other non-Belt and Road countries/regions	Sponsored the design sector to organise the “DFA Awards 2018” and showcase award-winning entries in various Asian cities	Members of the design sector	About \$4.53 million

17.	September 2019	Italy	Sponsored the film sector to participate in the “Venice International Film Festival 2019”	Members of the film sector	About \$0.36 million
18.	September 2019	Singapore	Sponsored representatives of the advertising sector to participate in “Spikes Asia” and “Young Spikes Competitions” held in Singapore	Representatives of winners of the “Kam Fan Awards” and the “Young Creative Competition” of the HK4As	About \$0.12 million
19.	September 2019	Korea and other non-Belt and Road countries/regions	Sponsored singer-songwriters and bands to perform outside Hong Kong	Music groups and singer-songwriters	About \$4.44 million
20.	October 2019	UAE and other non-Belt and Road countries/regions	Sponsored representatives of the design sector to participate in fashion weeks and exhibitions held outside Hong Kong	Representatives of the fashion design sector	About \$5.57 million
21.	November 2019	Portugal	Led representatives of Hong Kong’s cinema trade to participate in the 21 st Europa Cinemas Network Conference	Representatives of the cinema trade	About \$0.46 million
22.	November 2019	Poland	Sponsored the Asian Film Awards Academy to participate in the “Five Flavours Asian Film Festival” in Warsaw and organise film master classes	Members of the film sector	About \$0.40 million
23.	November 2019	Singapore	Sponsored multimedia SMEs to participate in the outreach programme and networking activities at the “Asia Video Summit 2019” held in Singapore	Representatives of the SMEs and tertiary students	About \$0.55 million

24.	November 2019	Myanmar	Led representatives of the design sector to meet and conduct exchanges with relevant government organisations and trade representatives of Myanmar's design sector	Representatives of the design sector	About \$0.29 million
25.	December 2019	Malaysia	Sponsored digital entertainment companies to set up the Hong Kong Pavilion at the "Comic Fiesta 2019" held in Malaysia and visit their local counterparts	Representatives of the digital entertainment companies	About \$1.23 million
2020-21 (4 projects)					
26.	April to October 2020	Italy and Greece	Sponsored the film sector to participate in the "Salento International Film Festival" and the "Udine Far East Film Festival" in Italy, and the "Thessaloniki International Film Festival" in Greece	Members of the film sector	About \$0.15 million
27.	June 2020	UAE and other non-Belt and Road countries/regions	Sponsored representatives of the design sector to participate in fashion weeks and exhibitions held outside Hong Kong	Representatives of the fashion design sector	About \$5.45 million
28.	November to December 2020	Poland	Sponsored the Asian Film Awards Academy to participate in the "Five Flavours Asian Film Festival" in Warsaw	Members of the film sector	About \$0.27 million

29.	February 2021	Thailand	Sponsored representatives of the advertising sector to participate in “ADFEST” held in Thailand	Representatives of winners of the “Kam Fan Awards” of the HK4As	About \$0.14 million
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Including expenditure incurred in conducting the visits (e.g. air/train tickets, local transportation, accommodation, etc.) and/or organising the activities.

Promoting and supporting the above projects is part of the regular duties of Create Hong Kong. The manpower and expenditure involved are included in the overall establishment and expenditure of the Communications and Creative Industries Branch of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)024

(Question Serial No. 0063)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

As mentioned in paragraph 39 of the Budget Speech, the Financial Secretary has mentioned that “the use of online shopping services, video streaming platforms and online conference software has become their new mode of working, studying and entertainment”. In this respect, will the Government inform this Committee whether it will provide resources and manpower to assist and revitalise local movie industry, particularly in production and distribution, helping them to register and broadcast on video streaming platforms or setting up a special “Hong Kong movie” streaming platform to support the development and sustainability of Hong Kong movie culture?

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

The Government has been supporting the long-term development of Hong Kong’s film industry through the Film Development Fund (FDF) along four broad strategic directions, namely nurturing talent, enhancing local production, expanding markets and building audience.

In 2021-22, the Government will continue to increase the number of film productions, enhance the quality of film productions and nurture talents through various funding schemes under the FDF, such as the Film Production Financing Scheme (FPFS), the First Feature Film Initiative (FFFI) and the Scheme for Funding Other Film-related Projects (e.g. film festivals and screenings held locally and outside Hong Kong, various exchanges and visits, workshops, investment and trade fairs, etc.), as well as the five major support measures aiming to provide assistance to the film industry in response to the epidemic (viz. the Directors’ Succession Scheme, relaxation measures of the FPFS, the Scriptwriting Incubation Programme, sponsoring the trade to provide free short-term advanced training courses, and enhancement to the FFFI). In the face of changes to the global film

production chain, the Government will continue to liaise closely with the Film Development Council and the sector to draw up appropriate measures, including making good use of streaming platforms to expand markets and build audience, with a view to supporting the long-term development of the local film industry.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)025

(Question Serial No. 0450)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

As mentioned in paragraph 117 of the Budget Speech, the Government will “inject an additional \$1 billion into the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) in 2021-22 to continuously drive the development of the creative industries.” Will the Government inform this Committee of

- (a) the resources and manpower allocated for executing this policy initiative; and
- (b) the targets of the injection into the CSI?

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 52)

Reply:

- (a) Promoting the development of creative industries is part of the regular duties of Create Hong Kong (CreateHK). The manpower and expenditure involved are included in the overall establishment and expenditure of the Communications and Creative Industries Branch of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, which cover general non-recurrent expenditure such as funding support to various projects under the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI).
- (b) The Government will inject \$1 billion into the CSI to sustain support for the creative industries, with the creative industries as a driving force of our economic development. The CSI will continue to adopt a “partnership approach”, whereby the industry would initiate and implement projects with funding support from the Government. CreateHK will continue to take the leading, co-ordinating and facilitating roles to initiate and foster cross-sectoral and cross-organisational collaborations. The split of the funding injection, premised on the three strategic foci of the CSI, will broadly be -
 - (i) nurturing talent and facilitating start-ups (approximately 50%);
 - (ii) exploring markets (approximately 25%); and

- (iii) promoting Hong Kong as Asia's creative capital and fostering a creative atmosphere in the community (approximately 25%).

In addition, CreateHK will use the new injection to assist the design and other creative sectors in adapting to the digitisation trend and the challenges arising from the use of various virtual means to carry out exchanges and business activities online, to encourage the trade to keep pace with the times, to proactively promote physical and virtual dual platforms, and to encourage cross-media and cross-sector co-operation, with a view to developing Hong Kong's competitive edge and seizing available market opportunities, e.g. those offered by the Greater Bay Area, the Belt and Road and the ASEAN markets. CreateHK will also work with the task force set up and led by the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) in promoting and sponsoring the development of Arts Tech, together with the HAB and the Innovation and Technology Bureau.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CCI)026****(Question Serial No. 1713)**

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Regarding the subsidy scheme to encourage the extension of fibre-based networks to villages in remote areas, the 235 villages covered by the subsidy scheme are grouped into 6 tender projects based on their geographical distribution. Will the Administration inform this Committee of the latest implementation progress, the planned works schedule and the amount of subsidy for each tender project of the scheme?

Asked by: Hon SHIU Ka-fai (LegCo internal reference no.: 54)

Reply:

The Office of the Communications Authority is responsible for implementing the subsidy scheme to extend fibre-based networks to villages in remote areas (the subsidy scheme). It has awarded all the 6 tender projects in 2019 and 2020. The selected fixed network operators are extending fibre-based networks to 235 villages across 9 districts in the New Territories and on outlying islands in phases from this year onwards. The details are as follows -

Financial year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Estimated number of villages where the rollout of fibre-based networks under the subsidy scheme will be completed (Percentage)	29 villages (12.3%)	84 villages (35.7%)	69 villages (29.4%)	38 villages (16.2%)	15 villages (6.4%)

Regarding the estimated expenditure, the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved a provision of \$774.4 million in 2018 to implement the subsidy scheme.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)027

(Question Serial No. 2251)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Provision for 2021-22 is \$221.7 million (52.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. It is explained in the document that this is mainly due to increase in cash flow requirement for general non-recurrent items. What are the details?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 20)

Reply:

Regarding Programme (1), the estimate for 2021-22 is higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21 mainly because of the expected increase in the number of projects funded by both the CreateSmart Initiative after approval of the injection of an additional \$1 billion and the Film Development Fund under which a provision of \$260 million has been earmarked to launch five supporting measures, as well as funds reserved to be disburse for subsidies deferred from 2020-21.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)028

(Question Serial No. 2253)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

- (a) A total of 85 applications were received under the CreateSmart Initiative last year, but only 48 were approved (i.e. just about half of the applications were successful). The number of applications received under the Film Development Fund was 21, but only 5 were approved. What are the reasons for that? Has the Administration tried to see if the application procedures are complicated or whether there are other reasons? Will eligibility criteria or application procedures be further improved?
- (b) What is the average amount of funding for (each) approved application? What are the main reasons for not approving or accepting other applications?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 22)

Reply:

A total of 85 applications were received under the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) in 2020, during which 48 applications were approved and the average amount of funding for each approved application was about \$7.4 million.

The main reasons for rejection of applications under the CSI include: (a) objectives of the project are not in line with the CSI's strategic foci in driving the development of creative industries; (b) deliverables of the project serve only the interests of individual private companies or organisations rather than the entire sector concerned; (c) the project overlaps with the work of other approved project(s); and (d) the project proponent is too optimistic about the expected outcome of the project, etc.

A number of schemes have been established under the Film Development Fund (FDF) to support the long-term development of the film industry on various fronts. A total of 21 film production applications were received under the FDF in 2020, during which 5 applications were approved with an average amount of funding for each approved

application at around \$4.81 million. All such applications are projects under the Film Production Financing Scheme which were assessed by an assessment panel comprising film professionals and the Fund Vetting Committee under the Film Development Council. The assessment criteria include “creativity and quality of screenplay”, “production budget”, “estimated income” and “local film production elements”. Since most applications received in 2020 were submitted in the second half of the year, some applications are still under processing; while some applications were rejected mainly due to inadequacies in the aspects mentioned above.

In addition, a total of 30 applications were received under the Scheme for Financing Other Film-related Projects under the FDF in 2020, during which 26 applications were approved with an average amount of funding for each approved application at about \$4.2 million. Main reasons for rejection of applications include (a) objectives of the project are not in line with the FDF’s strategic directions in driving the development of the film industry; (b) deliverables of the project serve only the interests of individual private companies or organisations rather than the entire sector concerned; (c) the project is not supported by professional film bodies; and (d) the project proponent is unable to prove its capability of implementing the project, etc.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)029

(Question Serial No. 2256)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The Administration will promote the application of 5G technology among government departments in the coming 3 years to enhance public services. What is the specific plan in this regard? Which government departments are expected to deploy 5G technology to enhance their public services? What are the details of the plan and the expenditure involved? How can the Administration's operational efficiency and public services be enhanced?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 27)

Reply:

5G technology is characterised by high speed, low latency communications and the ability to support a massive number of Internet of Things devices, providing diversified application solutions for various industries and public services. In the light of their actual operational needs, government departments may consider deploying 5G technology to enhance public services and operational efficiency.

The Government has earmarked \$55 million under the second round of the Anti-epidemic Fund to implement the Subsidy Scheme for Encouraging Early Deployment of 5G (the Scheme). By subsidising 50% of the actual cost relevant to the deployment of 5G technology in a project, subject to a cap of \$500,000, the Scheme encourages public and private sectors as well as government departments to deploy 5G technology early to foster innovation and smart city applications, thereby improving the efficiency of their operations and the quality of their services as well as enhancing Hong Kong's overall competitiveness. The Scheme is open for application from 5 May 2020 to 31 May 2021. As at 1 March 2021, 63 projects were approved, covering the aspects of augmented reality (AR)/mixed reality (MR) based building information modelling for construction sites, remote technical support and real-time monitoring of elevator safety, real-time detection of tunnel safety, remote advice and training for surgical operation, AR/MR based interior design, etc. The

financial impact of the Scheme will be absorbed by the Anti-epidemic Fund, which does not form part of the Appropriation Bill nor the estimates on the General Revenue Account.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)030

(Question Serial No. 2270)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Broadcasting and Creative Industries

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The Administration's revised expenditure on broadcasting and creative industries for 2020-21 is \$422 million, which is \$295 million (41.1%) lower than the original estimate of \$717 million. What are the specific reasons for the substantial decrease in expenditure? The estimated expenditure for 2021-22 is \$644 million, which is \$222 million (52.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. The Administration has indicated that the additional expenditure is mainly due to increase in cash flow requirement for general non-recurrent items. In this connection, what are the general non-recurrent items? What are the specific details of the expenditure?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 43)

Reply:

Regarding Programme (1), the revised estimate for 2020-21 is lower than the original estimate mainly because the number of projects funded by the CreateSmart Initiative (CSI) and Film Development Fund (FDF) was lower than expected, and the progress of some approved projects was affected by the pandemic (including postponements, changes in the form of activities, reductions in scale or cancellations). Consequently, part of the funding originally scheduled for disbursement in 2020-21 was postponed to 2021-22.

That the estimate for 2021-22 is higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21 is mainly due to the expected increase in the number of projects funded by both the CSI after approval of the injection of an additional \$1 billion and the FDF under which a provision of \$260 million has been earmarked to launch five supporting measures, and funds reserved for disbursement in the year for subsidies deferred from 2020-21.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)031

(Question Serial No. 2271)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The Administration's revised estimate for telecommunications for 2020-21 is \$34.9 million, which is \$54.8 million (61.1%) lower than the original estimate of \$89.7 million. What are the reasons for the substantial decrease in expenditure? The estimated expenditure for 2021-22 is \$113 million, which is \$78.1 million (223.8%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. What are the reasons for the substantial increase in expenditure? What is the breakdown of the additional expenditure?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 44)

Reply:

Regarding Programme (2), both the decrease in the revised estimate for 2020-21 as compared with the original estimate and the increase in the estimate for 2021-22 mainly reflect the subsidies to be disbursed to the fixed network operators in accordance with progress of works under the "subsidy scheme to extend fibre-based networks to villages in remote areas" in respective years.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)032

(Question Serial No. 2272)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Would the Administration give details of the specific progress of the relocation of satellite earth stations? When does the Administration expect to complete the relocation of satellite earth stations to enable wider deployment of frequency spectrum in the 3.5 GHz band for the provision of 5G services?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 45)

Reply:

The "3.5 GHz restriction zone" in Tai Po only affects 5G base stations operating in the 3.5 GHz band. Operators may still use spectrum in the other 5G frequency bands or re-farm existing 2G/3G/4G spectrum to provide 5G services.

In order to thoroughly resolve the problem of the "3.5 GHz restriction zone" in Tai Po, the Government has been proactively discussing with the two satellite operators. The Lands Department has already granted a land lot to one of the operators for relocation of its existing satellite earth stations (operating in the 3.5 GHz band for telemetry, tracking and control of satellites in orbit) from Tai Po to the Chung Hom Kok Teleport. The other operator's discussion with various government departments on details of the grant of land is in good progress.

Since the relocation of satellite earth stations involves complex engineering works and technical issues (including site formation, construction of stations and establishment of another set of satellite antennae), as well as the need to ensure that satellites in orbit will not be affected, the relocation and re-provisioning of relevant facilities are expected to be completed in 2024.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2273)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Would the Administration please provide details of the number of mobile network operators approved for installing radio base stations (RBSs) in government premises and public facilities to promote 5G network development in the past 3 years, including the locations and the number of these RBSs? In addition, what is the estimated number of RBSs for 5G network development to be added in Hong Kong in the coming 3 years?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 46)

Reply:

In April 2020, the 4 mobile network operators (MNOs) launched 5G services. The coverage of each 5G network is now over 90%, covering major shopping centres and more than 50 MTR stations. The coverage of 5G networks of individual MNOs in core business districts is even over 99%.

As at end-February 2021, the MNOs installed more than 5 000 5G radio base stations (RBSs), which are mainly located in private properties. To facilitate the development of 5G networks, the Government has proactively opened up more than 1 000 suitable government properties together with streamlined application processes for the installation of RBSs by the MNOs. As at end-February 2021, the Office of the Communications Authority received 136 applications, 68 of which have been approved by relevant departments. The Government has further adopted a “demand-led” model in opening up other suitable government premises and public facilities, including sheltered bus stops and public payphone kiosks, to facilitate the MNOs’ applications for installation of RBSs.

With the MNOs developing and improving their 5G networks continuously, we expect that the number of 5G RBSs (be they installed in private properties, government premises or public facilities) will continue to increase.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)034

(Question Serial No. 2274)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

What is the progress of the legislative exercise concerning further regulating person-to-person telemarketing calls (P2P calls) by the Administration? When does the Administration expect to table the relevant legislation for further strengthening the regulation of P2P calls?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 47)

Reply:

The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) originally planned to retain the two supernumerary directorate posts in the Communications and Creative Industries Branch for three years to take forward work on strengthening the regulation of person-to-person telemarketing calls and other legislative work. However, since these two posts lapsed in June 2019 and Members have expressed different views regarding the two posts at the meeting of the Finance Committee in November 2020, the CEDB had to temporarily withdraw the proposal. As a result, the related work would unavoidably be affected. There is no specific legislative timetable at the moment.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)035

(Question Serial No. 2959)

Head: (55) Government Secretariat: Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (Communications and Creative Industries Branch)

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Telecommunications

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Creative Industries) (Mr Clement LEUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

- (a) Provision for 2021-22 is \$78.1 million (223.8%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020-21. The explanation is that this is mainly due to increase in cash flow requirement for a general non-recurrent item. What is the general non-recurrent item?
- (b) Apart from working with the Office of the Communications Authority to facilitate mobile network operators' applications for installation of radio base stations in suitable government premises and public facilities with a view to supporting the extension of 5G infrastructure, what is the current coverage of 5G in non-government premises?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 23)

Reply:

- (a) Regarding Programme (2), the increase in the estimate for 2021-22 as compared with the revised estimate for 2020-21 mainly reflects the subsidies to be disbursed to the fixed network operators in accordance with progress of works under the "subsidy scheme to extend fibre-based networks to villages in remote areas" in that year.
- (b) In April 2020, the 4 mobile network operators (MNOs) launched 5G services; and coverage of each 5G network is now over 90%, including major shopping centres and more than 50 MTR stations. The coverage of 5G networks of individual MNOs in core business districts is even over 99%.

As at end-February 2021, the MNOs installed more than 5 000 5G radio base stations (RBSs), which are mainly located in private properties. To facilitate the development of 5G networks, the Government has proactively opened up more than 1 000 suitable government properties together with streamlined application procedures for the installation of RBSs by MNOs. The Government has further adopted a "demand-led" model in opening up other suitable government premises and public facilities,

including sheltered bus stops and public payphone kiosks, to facilitate the MNOs' applications for installation of RBSs.

With the MNOs developing and improving their 5G networks continuously, we expect that the number of 5G RBSs (be they installed in private properties, government premises or public facilities) will continue to increase.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1414)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2021-22" mentions "continue to take forward relevant recommendations as set out in Report No. 71 of the Director of Audit on Radio Television Hong Kong's provision of programmes". Would the Government please provide:

- (a) The details of plans implemented / in progress in the last financial year;
- (b) The plans, details and timetables for continuous implementation of the recommendations in this financial year;
- (c) The manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chun-ying (LegCo internal reference no.:50)

Reply:

The Government agreed and accepted the recommendations set out in Report No. 71 of the Director of Audit (the Report) on Radio Television Hong Kong's (RTHK) provision of programmes. The recommendations cover production of programmes, broadcasting of programmes, new media services, evaluation of programmes and other administrative issues. RTHK has taken follow-up measures in accordance with the recommendations, and reported to the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislative Council on progress according to the established mechanism. Please visit the following webpage for more details:

https://www.legco.gov.hk/general/english/pac/reports/rpt_1620.htm

RTHK implements the recommendations set out in the Report with existing resources and manpower, and has no separate breakdown of the resources involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)037

(Question Serial No. 0278)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Regarding programmes on civic education produced by Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), please list the programmes on civic education broadcast in the past 3 years, the annual expenditure and manpower involved in the programmes concerned, the overall transmission hours and the percentage of such programmes over the total transmission hours on each channel. What are the transmission hours on Digital Terrestrial Television channels per programme staff and the average expenditure per transmission hour? Are there appreciation index scores for individual programmes? If yes, please tabulate the scores.

How will RTHK enhance the programmes on civic and national education in the future? Please provide the details and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has been producing programmes on civic education. Last year, in light of the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), RTHK has produced a number of programmes and segments to enhance the public awareness of pandemic prevention.

RTHK TV 32 is a 24-hour live event channel and RTHK TV 33 relays programmes of China Central Television Channel 1. RTHK does not have separate breakdown of the statistics on the programmes on civic education. The numbers of transmission hours of programmes on civic education on RTHK TV 31 for the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Year	Transmission Hours of Programmes on Civic Education (Hours)	Transmission Hours of RTHK TV 31 (Hours)	Percentage of Transmission Hours of Programmes on Civic Education to Transmission Hours of RTHK TV 31 (%)
2018-19 (Actual)	1 053.8	6 936.3	15.2
2019-20 (Actual)	1 150.7	8 760	13.1
2020-21 (Revised Estimate)	1 068.7	8 760	12.2

The transmission hours on Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) channels per programme staff, and the average expenditure per transmission hour of RTHK TV 31, 32 and 33 for the past 3 years are tabulated below:

Year	Transmission Hours on DTT Per Programme Staff (Hours)	Cost Per Transmission Hour on DTT (\$)
2018-19 (Actual)	93.9	25,150
2019-20 (Actual)	125.7	19,300
2020-21 (Revised Estimate)	122.8	20,600

The annual expenditure on programmes on civic education is absorbed by existing resources of RTHK, and RTHK does not have separate breakdown of the expenditure and manpower involved. RTHK also has no breakdown of the statistics on the appreciation index scores for individual programmes on civic education.

Regarding enhancing programmes on civic education, since the promulgation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the Hong Kong National Security Law), RTHK launched the programme "10 Questions about the National Security Law" simultaneously on radio and television (TV), to explain the content of the provisions. Animations will be broadcast to explain to the public the Hong Kong National Security Law in a simple way.

Moreover, RTHK will produce and feature a special programme "The Century-Long March" this year, which elaborates on the modern history of China over the past 100 years. The programme will have both Putonghua and Cantonese versions, and will be broadcast through radio, TV, webpages and social media platforms. Meanwhile, RTHK will collaborate with the Preparatory Committee for "The Century-Long March" Activity Series, the Education Bureau and the Home Affairs Bureau to organise "'The Century-Long March' Quiz Competition" and "'The Century-Long March' Quiz Competition for Youth Uniformed Groups in Hong Kong". RTHK also plans to collaborate with the Preparatory Committee for "The Century-Long March" Activity Series to organise "The Century-Long March Hong Kong Youth Uniformed Groups Gala Show", to improve the understanding of

our country among secondary school students and engender a sense of national identity among young people.

Furthermore, RTHK will produce programmes that introduce everyday life in the Greater Bay Area, Lingnan culture, our country's scenery, etc., to engender a sense of national identity and promote the understanding of our national culture.

RTHK will continue to collaborate with government departments, committees and non-governmental organisations to produce programmes, with a view to enhancing civic awareness and national education among the public.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)038

(Question Serial No.0907)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The Governance and Management of Radio Television Hong Kong Review Report (the Report) has been released. Will the Government increase the manpower or allocate additional resources to monitor whether Radio Television Hong Kong has complied with the requirements of the Report? If so, what will be the additional manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will study the Governance and Management of Radio Television Hong Kong Review Report in detail, and follow up by drawing up priority improvement measures, an action plan and a timetable to fully implement the recommendations, and report progress to the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau on a regular basis. RTHK will review and handle the relevant manpower and resources allocation in accordance with the established mechanism.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)039

(Question Serial No. 0908)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Regarding the Radio Television Hong Kong programme "All About the Chinese Style – Kenya", what are the expenditure and manpower involved in the programme, and how many trips were taken to Kenya for filming? Which organisations were contacted and was there any expenditure involved? If yes, please tabulate the information.

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

Regarding the Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) programme "All About the Chinese Style – Kenya", the RTHK programme production staff paid 2 visits to Kenya for data collection, interviews and filming. Organisations and persons that had been contacted include local media, scholars, government departments, Chinese business associations, clansmen associations, representatives of organisations and engineering companies. The expenditure involved in the production of the programme was absorbed from within existing resources of RTHK, and there was no individual breakdown of expenditure and manpower.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)040

(Question Serial No. 0909)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has an approved estimate of expenditure of over \$900 million annually. However, it received 5 substantiated complaints last year. Some members of the public consider that RTHK should stop using public fund and undergo privatisation, to remove its burden as a public organisation in order to keep in step with the times. Has the Government conducted any internal study on the privatisation of RTHK? If so, what are the manpower and funding involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 33)

Reply:

The existing positioning and public functions of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) are determined after extensive discussion and consultation. In August 2010, the Government announced the promulgation of the Charter of RTHK, which clearly specifies the public purposes and mission of RTHK as a public service broadcaster, as well as the responsibilities of RTHK as a government department. Thorough discussions regarding corporatisation of RTHK had been conducted in the past. Currently there are no internal studies regarding this issue being conducted.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)041

(Question Serial No. 0910)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

In the past 5 years, what are the number of “Category II service providers” engaged in Radio Television Hong Kong and the expenditure involved, and what are the engagement criteria? Of those, what are the number of Category II service providers that are repeatedly engaged and the frequency of repeated engagement? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Han-pan (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

According to the demarcation approved by the Finance Committee of the former Legislative Council in 1982, Category II service providers should be engaged for a specific purpose in the production of particular programmes of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), such as artists, presenters and contributors. RTHK engages Category II service providers in order to allow flexibility in meeting the operational needs as well as to tap the expertise in the market.

From 2016-17 to 2020-21 (as at 31 December 2020), RTHK engaged about 1 800 to 3 000 Category II service providers, involving approximately 5 900 to 7 900 number of contracts each year, and the total annual expenditure was around \$46 million to \$73 million.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)042

(Question Serial No. 1711)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: (1) Radio

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Will Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) In the past 3 years, the financial expenditure and number of staff involved in the production of news programmes by RTHK;
- (b) Please tabulate the numbers of compliments and complaint cases regarding each programme that RTHK received in the past 5 years.

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 14)

Reply:

(a) The direct departmental expenditure and number of staff involved in the production of news programmes by Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) for the past 3 financial years are as follows:

Financial Year	Direct Departmental Expenditure for the Production of News Programmes (\$ Million)	Number of Civil Servants and Non-civil Service Contract Staff
2018-19	15.0	91
2019-20	20.2	96
2020-21 (As at 28 February 2021)	14.1	91

(b) The total numbers of compliments and complaints* regarding the radio and television programmes which RTHK received for the past 3 financial years are as follows. RTHK has no separate breakdown for individual programmes.

Category \ Financial Year	Number of Compliments	Number of Complaints
2018-19	103	149
2019-20	76 576	29 101
2020-21 (As at 28 February 2021)	27 488	1 503

* The figures cover emails, letters, templates, facsimiles, telephone calls received by enquiry centre and cases referred by other departments.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 1712)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programmes

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

One of the matters requiring special attention in 2021-22 for Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) is to “continue to promote civic awareness amongst the public and support the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region’s official events”. In this regard, please inform the Committee of the following:

(a) In the past 3 financial years, how did RTHK promote civic awareness and support the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region’s official events? What are the major programmes produced? What is the number of transmission hours for such programmes?

(b) In the past 3 financial years, what are the number of staff and the financial expenditure involved in promoting civic awareness and supporting the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region’s official events? Regarding this matter, what are the number of staff and estimated expenditure involved in 2021-22?

Asked by: Hon CHEUNG Wah-fung, Christopher (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

(a) Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has been producing civic education programmes. In view of the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 last year, RTHK produced a number of programmes to enhance the public awareness of pandemic prevention. RTHK will produce / broadcast more programmes which promote civic awareness in the future, so as to fulfil the public purposes and mission as stipulated in the Charter of RTHK.

RTHK TV 32 broadcasts important government press conferences, clarification messages and “睇真D·知多D” messages provided by the Information Services Department, relays Legislative Council meetings, and broadcasts local, national and international news. Besides, RTHK provides television (TV) relays and pool signal for local TV stations, such as live coverage of the flag-raising ceremonies and receptions in celebration of anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and the

National Day, the forums of the Chief Executive's Policy Address and the Financial Secretary's Budget Speech, and also provides technical support for events held by the Government, such as the webinar on 30th anniversary of promulgation of Basic Law, Honours and Awards Presentation Ceremony and the ceremony to commemorate victory day of Chinese people's war of resistance against Japanese aggression.

RTHK TV 33 provides 24-hour relay of programmes of China Central Television Channel 1 every day.

(b) RTHK promotes civic awareness and supports the HKSAR's official events with existing resources, and there is no individual breakdown of the expenditure and manpower for the related work.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)044

(Question Serial No. 1532)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The Charter of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) stipulates that RTHK should “engender a sense of citizenship and national identity through programmes that contribute to the understanding of our community and nation”. Putting in order the education on the National Security Law is precisely to engender a sense of citizenship and national identity among the public. As such, it is the responsibility of RTHK to comply with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government’s putting in order the education on the Hong Kong National Security Law, so as to enhance the public awareness of maintaining national security and abiding by the law, and prevent them from being distorted and misled by the opposition, causing misunderstanding and unnecessary fear. However, since the “black-clad mob unrest” in 2019, RTHK’s editorial principle and reporting approach have been criticised repeatedly, especially on the stance of the current affairs programmes and the very biased attitude of the hosts. In this regard, will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

(a) Will the newly appointed Director of Broadcasting promise to re-examine whether the existing programmes meet the requirements of the Hong Kong National Security Law, and not to invite people who “oppose China and seek to disrupt Hong Kong” as guest hosts in the future?

(b) Will RTHK promise to produce more national education programmes relating to the National Security Law and promote them in the future to enhance the public’s sense of national identity?

(c) Recently, the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau released “the Governance and Management of Radio Television Hong Kong Review Report”, and criticised that there were many problems regarding the management of RTHK, including deficiencies in editorial management system, weak editorial accountability, etc. What measures will RTHK take to improve or resolve the long-term governance problem of RTHK?

Asked by: Hon HO Kwan-yiu, Junius (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

(a) & (b) All Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) programmes must comply with the laws of Hong Kong, including the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the Hong Kong National Security Law). RTHK will continue to abide by the Charter of RTHK (the Charter), and fulfil the public purposes and mission of RTHK under the Charter, including promoting understanding of the concept of "One Country, Two Systems" and its implementation in Hong Kong, and engendering a sense of citizenship and national identity among the public.

Since the promulgation of the Hong Kong National Security Law, RTHK launched the programme "10 Questions about the National Security Law" simultaneously on radio and television, to explain the content of the provisions. Animations will soon be broadcast to explain to the public the Hong Kong National Security Law in a simple way. In the new financial year, RTHK plans to produce programmes which introduce everyday life in the Greater Bay Area, Lingnan culture, our country's scenery, etc., so as to engender a sense of national identity and promote understanding of our national culture.

(c) RTHK will conduct in-depth study and follow up on "the Governance and Management of Radio Television Hong Kong Review Report" to draw up priority improvement measures, an action plan and a timetable, to fully implement the recommendations, and report the related progress to the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau on a regular basis. RTHK will review and handle the relevant manpower and resources allocation in accordance with the established mechanism.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0426)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

The Government has earmarked \$995.2 million for Radio Television Hong Kong in 2021-22. Regarding this matter, will the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

(a) In 2019-20 and 2020-21, what is the total number of programmes produced internally of the 3 digital terrestrial television channels? What are the number of views and production costs of these individual programmes?

(b) In 2019-20 and 2020-21, what are the total number and total number of broadcast hours of Community Involvement Broadcasting Service programmes? What are the listenership and / or production costs of these individual programmes?

(c) Are there any performance indicators developed to determine the cost-effectiveness and review whether the funding has achieved the expected targets? If so, what are the details, and are the expected targets achieved in 2019-20 and 2020-21? If not, what are the reasons?

And

(d) Are there any audience feedback mechanisms established, such as conducting audience questionnaire surveys? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina (LegCo internal reference no.: 36)

Reply:

(a) Information on programme transmission of the 3 digital terrestrial television (DTT) channels of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) in 2019-20 and 2020-21 is as follows:

2019-20 (Actual)

DTT Channels	Total Hours of First-run Programmes (Hours)	Audience Reach (Million)	Average Prime Time Television Ratings* (Number of Viewers)	Cost Per Transmission Hour of DTT Channels (\$)
RTHK TV 31	1 775.6	4.897	19 600	19,300
RTHK TV 32		4.976	32 700	

2020-21 (Revised Estimate)

DTT Channels	Total Hours of First-run Programmes (Hours)	Audience Reach (Million)	Average Prime Time Television Ratings* (Number of Viewers)	Cost Per Transmission Hour of DTT Channels (\$)
RTHK TV 31	1 741.5	5.034	30 000	20,600
RTHK TV 32		4.668	12 000	

* Prime time refers to 1900 to 2300 hours

RTHK does not keep statistics on the transmission cost of individual programmes, and the ratings and audience reach of RTHK TV 33.

(b) In 2019-20, the total number of Community Involvement Broadcasting Service (CIBS) programmes was 79, the transmission hours were 844 and the total expenditure was approximately \$8.79 million. In 2020-21, the total number of CIBS programmes is 78, and the transmission hours are 884, and the revised estimate is \$9.10 million. RTHK has not conducted any listenership survey on individual CIBS programmes.

(c) RTHK has listed various indicators in the Controlling Officer's Report as the criteria for measuring performance. Starting from 2021-22, RTHK adopts a new indicator, namely "distribution of programme content according to the Charter of RTHK (transmission hours) / (hours)" which refers to the distribution of programme content according to the mission stipulated in paragraph 5 of the Charter of RTHK (the Charter) with a view to better reflecting RTHK's role as a public service broadcaster. RTHK also uses new indicators such as "average daily viewing minutes" and "appreciation index per channel / appreciation index (out of ten)", in order to better reflect viewers' daily consumption in terms of time spent on programmes produced by RTHK, and the satisfaction level among the audience who have listened to / watched the corresponding channel in the past 7 days.

The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau released "the Governance and Management of Radio Television Hong Kong Review Report" in February 2021, in which it recommended that RTHK should set more meaningful performance targets / indicators to facilitate evaluation of the extent of its achievement of the public purposes and mission stipulated in the Charter. RTHK will proactively follow up with the recommendations.

(d) RTHK has commissioned a survey organisation to conduct the "Radio Television Hong Kong Television Channel Penetration Survey" and the "Television Appreciation Index and Audience Survey" to collect information and data on the penetration, pervasiveness / take

up patterns of its DTT channels and viewing habits of the audience, with a view to ascertaining the reasons for low television ratings, so that RTHK can formulate corresponding measures. RTHK will formulate corresponding measures based on the information collected in the report, and conduct studies on how to review its production strategy, revise its programming strategies and enrich the programme content with existing resources.

In addition, RTHK also conducted the first survey on TV programme commissioning in 2020. Through the discussions in 6 focus group meetings, opinions from more than 50 members of the public (including viewers and non-viewers) on RTHK's commissioned television programmes have been collected. The content of the report has been explained to members of the RTHK Board of Advisors, the management and the related production staff in detail, to determine the future direction of work.

Regarding the evaluation of radio programmes, according to the Radio Audience Survey conducted by an independent survey company commissioned by RTHK in 2020, the number of listeners of the 7 RTHK radio channels have increased, and the appreciation indices of 6 radio channels have also increased.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2520)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programmes

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

In the past 3 years, what are the establishment, payroll cost and total expenditure on the production of "Police Magazine" by Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)? After the cease of broadcast of "Police Magazine", are there any other RTHK programmes promoting the messages of crime fighting and police-public co-operation in the society?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 15)

Reply:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has no individual breakdown of expenditure and manpower for individual programmes.

As the public service broadcaster of Hong Kong, RTHK will continue to produce various types of programmes, in order to let the public learn about the services provided by different government departments, as well as provide the public with all kinds of information, including the messages of crime fighting and police-public co-operation. RTHK TV 32 is a 24-hour live event channel and its coverage includes all kinds of government information and important government press conferences. Since the cessation of broadcast of "Police Magazine" in August 2020, RTHK has broadcast more than 80 hours of police press conferences.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CCI)047****(Question Serial No. 2610)**Head: (160) Radio Television Hong KongSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (4) New MediaControlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion:

What are the names of the 10 programmes that have the highest numbers of views on the Radio Television Hong Kong YouTube Channel? What are the numbers of page likes / followers / subscribers for each Facebook page, the YouTube Channel and accounts or pages on other social media platforms (if any)?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 184)Reply:

The names and accumulated number of views of the 10 most viewed television (TV) programmes on the Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) YouTube Channel from 1 July 2016 to 28 February 2021 are as follows:

TV Programmes	Number of Views (in Million)
1. Hong Kong Connection	78.56
2. Headliner*	25.91
3. This Week	24.26
4. City Forum	20.10
5. This Morning	14.33
6. Legco Review	10.77
7. Police Magazine	7.57
8. The Screening Room (時代的記錄—鏗鏘說)	6.26
9. The Screening Room (鏗鏘說)	6.22
10. Hong Kong Connection Repackage	4.48

*RTHK had removed the episodes involved in the Communications Authority's substantiated rulings from its web archive. The production of "Headliner" was ceased after 19 June 2020.

The numbers of page likes / followers / subscribers for RTHK Facebook pages, the YouTube Channel and accounts or pages on other social media platforms as at 28 February 2021 are as follows:

	Page Likes	Followers	Subscribers
RTHK Facebook	Over 270 000	Over 290 000	—
RTHK VNEWS Facebook	Over 690 000	Over 1 040 000	—
RTHK English News Facebook	Over 40 000	Over 40 000	—
RTHK Twitter	—	Over 4 000	—
RTHK English News Twitter	—	Over 130 000	—
RTHK YouTube Channel	—	—	1 400 000

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CCI)048****(Question Serial No. 2611)**Head: (160) Radio Television Hong KongSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion:

What are the numbers of compliments and complaints that Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) received in the past 3 years?

How many complaint cases regarding RTHK programmes have been received by the Communications Authority in the past 3 years? How many of such cases are substantiated? How many of them are still being processed?

Asked by: Hon LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla (LegCo internal reference no.: 185)

Reply:

The numbers of compliments and complaints* Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) received in the past 3 financial years (as at 28 February 2021) are as follows:

Financial Year	Complaints	Compliments
2018-19	149	103
2019-20	29 101	76 576
2020-21 (As at 28 February 2021)	1 503	27 488

* The figures cover emails, letters, templates, facsimiles, telephone calls received by enquiry centre and cases referred by other departments.

According to RTHK's record, in the past 3 financial years (as at 28 February 2021), the Communications Authority made decisions on 49 complaint cases against RTHK programmes. Among them, 9 cases were substantiated (1 case with no sanctions imposed, 2 strong advice, 2 advice, 1 serious warning and 3 warnings), 31 cases were classified as minor breaches and 9 cases were not substantiated.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)049

(Question Serial No. 0329)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) New Media

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Regarding the new media services of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The estimated provision for new media services for 2021-22 is \$42.1 million. Please tabulate and explain the amount of the estimated provision allocated to the official website, mobile applications and social media;
- (b) In 2020-21, the names of the 5 programmes with the highest and lowest numbers of views on the official social media of RTHK, and their accumulative numbers of views; and
- (c) The English news of RTHK was earlier said to be intentionally using misleading wording on social media. The Producers' Guidelines is applicable to new media productions and staff should make sure that the material posted on the web is accurate, suitable and relevant, and the links established do not damage RTHK's reputation. Will RTHK allocate more resources to supervision and monitoring in order to avoid misleading incidents?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 18)

Reply:

(a) The estimated provision for new media services for 2021-22 is \$42.1 million, which includes a total of around \$14 million for technical support and operating expenses of the official website and mobile applications, and the remaining provision is for personal emoluments and other miscellaneous items. The social media does not involve extra expenditure.

(b) Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) YouTube Channel is the main platform for the broadcast of RTHK programmes on social media. The names and accumulative numbers

of views of the 5 most viewed television (TV) programmes on the RTHK YouTube Channel as at 28 February 2021 are tabulated as follows:

TV Programmes	Number of Views (in Million)
Hong Kong Connection	78.56
Headliner*	25.91
This Week	24.26
City Forum	20.10
This Morning	14.33

* RTHK had removed the episodes involved in the Communications Authority's substantiated rulings from its web archive. The production of "Headliner" was ceased after 19 June 2020.

RTHK does not have the names and the accumulative numbers of views of the 5 least viewed TV programmes on the YouTube Channel.

(c) RTHK will continue to adhere to the editorial principles set out in the Charter of RTHK, including being accurate and authoritative in the information that it disseminates, upholding the highest professional standards of journalism, and providing accurate, impartial and objective news to the public. The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau released "the Governance and Management of Radio Television Hong Kong Review Report" in February 2021, which pointed out that there had been serious inadequacies in the editorial management and complaint handling mechanism of RTHK. RTHK will seriously follow up on the various recommendations in the review report, and review and manage the relevant manpower and resources allocation in accordance with the established mechanism.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)050

(Question Serial No. 0381)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Regarding the public affairs and general television programmes produced by the Television (TV) Division of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), will the Government please inform this Committee of the following:

(a) The number of complaints against the content of the programmes received by RTHK in the past 3 years;

(b) Regarding the 5 substantiated complaints against the TV Division of RTHK in 2020-21, the name of the programme, the substance of the complaint and the follow-up action taken on each complaint; and

(c) Recently, the Government released “the Governance and Management of Radio Television Hong Kong Review Report”, criticising RTHK’s editorial processes were seriously inadequate to ensure the compliance of its programmes and content with the requirements of the Charter of RTHK, the Producers’ Guidelines and the codes of practice issued by the Communications Authority. How will the Government improve the relevant issues, so as to ensure that the production costs are put to their best use?

Asked by: Hon LIAO Cheung-kong, Martin (LegCo internal reference no.: 17)

Reply:

(a) The number of complaints against the content of the public affairs and general television programmes produced by the Television (TV) Division of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) for the past 3 financial years are as follows:

Financial Year	Complaints
2018-19	31
2019-20	14 885
2020-21 (As at 28 February 2021)	544

(b) The details of the 5 complaint cases against the TV Division of RTHK substantiated by the Communications Authority (CA) in 2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) are as follows:

Name of the Programme	Substance of the Complaint	Follow-up Action Taken
“Pentaprism”	In the edition of the programme on 20 November 2019, the comments of the guest host on the siege of university campuses by the Police were not factual or without justification, and incited hatred against the Police.	RTHK had removed the edition of the programme from its web archive.
“Headliner”	In the edition of the programme on 14 February 2020, the accuracy of the content was not ensured, the segment “驚方訊息” insulted the Police, and a broad range of views were not allowed to present.	As RTHK will conduct a review, the production of “Headliner” was ceased after 19 June 2020.
“RTHK TV 33 Weather Forecast”	Promotional advertisements were included in the weather forecast programme broadcast during family viewing hours on 30 September 2019.	As RTHK had little discretion over the programme it relayed, no sanction was imposed by CA.
“Pentaprism”	In the 4 editions of the programme on 4 September, 7 October, 15 October and 13 November 2019, the remarks of the hosts on the Police’s enforcement actions in social events were partial, and the Police had not been given a suitable opportunity to respond in the programme or at other times.	RTHK had removed the 4 editions of the programme from its web archive. As RTHK will conduct a review, the timeslot has been taken by other programme(s) since the end of July 2020.
“Headliner”	In the 3 editions of the programme on 28 February, 13 March and 10 April 2020, the segment “驚方訊息” denigrated and insulted the Police, and in the edition on 13 March 2020, suitable and timely opportunity was not provided to the Police for response.	As RTHK will conduct a review, the production of “Headliner” was ceased after 19 June 2020.

(c) The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau released “the Governance and Management of Radio Television Hong Kong Review Report” in February 2021, which recommended that RTHK should put in place a robust and transparent editorial process (including an effective mandatory referral system to deal with difficult / contentious / sensitive editorial issues), with clearly defined editorial responsibilities at each editorial level and highlighting the decision-making role of the Editor-in-chief and his directorate staff, so as to maintain a high level of professionalism as required under the Charter of RTHK. RTHK will give priority and proactively follow up on the recommendations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)051

(Question Serial No. 0031)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong
Subhead (No. & title): (661) Minor Plant, Vehicles and Equipment (Block Vote)
Programme: Not Specified
Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Regarding minor plant, vehicles and equipment:

- (a) What are the details of the expenditure for 2020-21?
- (b) The expenditure for 2021-22 is reduced by \$7,149,000. Please list in detail the reasons for the reduction of purchase of minor plant and equipment and the details of the items concerned.

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 1)

Reply:

- (a) The revised estimate for minor plant, vehicles and equipment for 2020-21 is \$56,529,000.
- (b) The decrease in the estimate for purchasing minor plant, vehicles and equipment for 2021-22 is mainly due to the substantial completion of several major items in 2020-21, including the replacement of the triplexer at Peng Chau AM transmitting station and upgrade of the transmission facilities for radio transmitting stations.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)052

(Question Serial No. 0032)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational Expenses

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Regarding the expenditure on personal emoluments, would the Government please inform the following:

- (a) The 2020-21 revised estimate for salaries is decreased from the approved estimate of \$455,880,000 to \$446,987,000. What are the reasons and details involved? Please list the figure of staff movement and the changes in salary expenditure for each rank.
- (b) The 2021-22 estimate for salaries is \$449,908,000, which is over \$2.92 million higher than the 2020-21 revised estimate. What are the reasons and details involved? Please list the figure of staff movement and the changes in salary expenditure for each rank.
- (c) The 2020-21 revised estimate for allowances is higher than the approved estimate by \$1.731 million from \$8,800,000 to \$10,531,000. Please specify the reasons for the increase and set out the allowance items and the change in expenditure in detail.
- (d) The 2021-22 estimate for allowances is \$12,104,000, which is \$1.573 million higher than the 2020-21 revised estimate. Please specify the reasons for the increase, and set out the allowance items and the change in expenditure in detail.
- (e) The 2020-21 revised estimate for job-related allowances is decreased from the approved estimate of \$1,180,000 to \$645,000. Please specify the reasons for the decrease, and set out the allowance items and the change in expenditure in detail.
- (f) The 2021-22 estimate for job-related allowances is \$745,000, which is \$100,000 higher than the 2020-21 revised estimate. Please specify the reasons for the increase, and set out the allowance items and the change in expenditure in detail.
- (g) Please list the number of staff who have received allowances and job-related allowances, and provide a breakdown of the highest and lowest amount received in each year by rank and post in the last 3 financial years from 2019-20 to 2021-22.

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

(a) & (b) The 2020-21 revised estimate for salaries is lower than the approved estimate, which is mainly due to the decrease in emolument expenditure for filling of vacancies. The 2021-22 estimate for salaries is higher than the 2020-21 revised estimate, which is mainly due to the estimated increase in emolument expenditure for salary increment. The estimated establishment ceiling of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) for 2021-22 is 760, and the actual number of civil servants serving in RTHK in 2020-21 (as at 1 February 2021) is 686.

(c) & (d) The increase in the 2020-21 revised estimate and the 2021-22 estimate for allowances when compared with that of the 2020-21 approved estimate and the 2020-21 revised estimate are mainly due to the increase in expenditure on “acting allowance” for RTHK to arrange for suitable staff to take up acting appointments to fill the vacant posts to meet operational needs.

(e) & (f) The 2020-21 revised estimate for job related allowances is lower than the approved estimate, which is mainly due to the decrease in actual expenditures on “typhoon allowance” and “shift duty allowance”. The 2021-22 estimate for job related allowances is higher than the 2020-21 revised estimate, which is mainly due to the increase in the estimated reserve for “typhoon allowance”.

(g) The numbers of recipients of various allowances and job-related allowances and the amounts involved in 2019-20 and 2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021) are as follows

	2019-20		2020-21 (as at 28 February 2021)	
	Number of Recipients	Amount (\$)	Number of Recipients	Amount (\$)
(I) Allowances				
Overtime Allowance	302	1,203,100	259	907,700
Acting Allowance	690	7,746,300	689	8,121,500
Overseas Subsistence Allowance	11	50,700	—	—
On-call Duty Allowance	34	24,900	28	21,500
(II) Job-related Allowances				
Typhoon Allowance	195	213,400	184	461,600
Shift Duty Allowance	230	389,300	279	412,700

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CCI)053****(Question Serial No. 0120)**Head: (160) Radio Television Hong KongSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (4) New MediaControlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion:

Please list the operating expenses, numbers of downloads, utilisation rates and retention rates of each of the 7 mobile applications (namely “RTHK on the Go”, “RTHK Screen”, “RTHK Mine”, “RTHK News”, “RTHK Vox”, “RTHK Memory” and “Chinese History – the Flourishing Age”) in the past 3 years.

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)Reply:

The operating expenses of the 7 mobile applications of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) for 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 are approximately \$283,000, \$293,000 and \$338,000 respectively. RTHK has no separate breakdown of operating expenses of each mobile application. Repair and maintenance services provided by contractors are included in the operating expenses of the mobile applications, while the project fund for the enhancement in functions of the mobile applications is not included.

The information regarding the numbers of downloads and utilisation rates of the 7 mobile applications of RTHK are as follows. As RTHK does not maintain records on users' deletion of applications, the retention rates of each of the mobile applications are not available.

Mobile Application	Accumulated Number of Downloads*			Utilisation Rate (the monthly average number of access to the mobile application on mobile devices)		
	<i>As at the End of 2018</i>	<i>As at the End of 2019</i>	<i>As at the End of 2020</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
RTHK On The Go	2 005 000	2 216 000	2 344 000	212 000	231 000	219 000
RTHK Screen	407 000	504 000	575 000	26 000	37 000	39 000

Mobile Application	Accumulated Number of Downloads*			Utilisation Rate (the monthly average number of access to the mobile application on mobile devices)		
	<i>As at the End of 2018</i>	<i>As at the End of 2019</i>	<i>As at the End of 2020</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
RTHK News	135 000	335 000	473 000	38 000	79 000	136 000
RTHK Mine	331 000	401 000	444 000	98 000	111 400	101 000
Chinese History – the Flourishing Age	113 000	129 000	158 000	Cannot be Provided [^]		
RTHK Memory	35 000	39 000	48 000	Cannot be Provided [^]		
RTHK Vox	15 000	16 000	17 000	Cannot be Provided [^]		

* Rounded to the nearest thousand.

[^] As 3 mobile applications are not equipped with programmes tracking utilisation rates, the relevant data cannot be provided.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 3131)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

(a) In the past year, what were the average ratings of the digital terrestrial television (DTT) channels of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK)? What measures are there to market and promote RTHK DTT channels and boost viewership?

(b) In the past year, what was the number of output hours of first-run television (TV) programmes of RTHK? What is the estimated number of output hours this year?

(c) In the past year, how many arts and culture TV programmes were produced by RTHK? How many hours of such programmes were aired? What was the number of viewers? What were the expenditure and staff establishment involved?

(d) In the past year, how many sports TV programmes were produced by RTHK? How many hours of such programmes were aired? What was the number of viewers? What were the expenditure and staff establishment involved?

(e) In the past year, how many local sports events has RTHK broadcast live or recorded? What are the details? What are the broadcast fees involved? What was the number of viewers?

(f) In the coming year, how many arts and culture, and sports TV programmes does RTHK plan to produce respectively? What are the details? What are the expenditure and staff establishment involved?

(g) In the coming year, how many local sports events does RTHK plan to live broadcast or relay? What are the details? What is the expenditure involved?

(h) In the past year, how many TV programmes were acquired by RTHK? How many hours of such programmes were involved? What was the expenditure involved? Among the acquired programmes, how many of them are produced locally? How many are produced overseas or in the Mainland? What was the expenditure involved in the acquired programmes produced locally?

(i) In the past year, how many programmes have been commissioned to local producers through TV programme commissioning? What was the expenditure involved?

(j) In the past year, how many hours of programmes were broadcast live by RTHK? What were the contents?

Asked by: Hon MA Fung-kwok (LegCo internal reference no.: 16)

Reply:

(a) In 2020-21, the average prime time ratings (7-11 p.m.) of RTHK TV 31 and TV 32 are 30 000 viewers and 12 000 viewers respectively.

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) conducts different publicity events from time to time, including press conferences on programmes, campaigns on radio, television (TV) and social media, workshops and community outreach to promote RTHK TV channels, programmes and digital terrestrial television reception. In the past year, as affected by Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), there was a sharp decrease in publicity events, and the “RTHK Mobile TV Campaign” could only conduct limited promotion. In order to enhance the promotion of RTHK TV channels, RTHK launched “Project Dino”, in which a dinosaur Dino became the programme promotion icon to attract public’s attention.

(b) In 2020-21, RTHK produced 1 741.5 hours of first-run TV programmes. In 2021-22, the total hours of first-run TV programmes is estimated to be 1 830.

(c) In 2020-21, RTHK produced 267.7 hours of arts and culture programmes. The expenditure involved was absorbed from within existing resources of RTHK. There was no individual breakdown of expenditure and manpower. RTHK has no separate statistics on the number of viewers.

(d) & (e) In 2020-21, as affected by COVID-19, many local and international sports matches were cancelled. As such, RTHK did not live broadcast or relay such sports matches. RTHK produced a total of 31 hours of programmes featuring the topic of sports and exercises. The expenditure involved was absorbed from within existing resources of RTHK. There was no individual breakdown of expenditure and manpower. RTHK has no separate statistics on the number of viewers.

(f) & (g) In 2021-22, on the arts and culture programmes, subject to the impact of COVID-19, RTHK will continue to introduce films, performing arts and local exhibitions to audience, invite guests for live performances and relay performances of local arts groups, in order to enhance audience’s knowledge in performing arts and ability to appreciate. RTHK will also provide a platform for novice filmmakers to create and have their works broadcast, and continue to produce programmes to promote local and overseas arts and culture events. Starting from 6 February 2021, RTHK broadcasts a new 1-hour live magazine programme “830 Weekend Culture”, which promotes local films, stage productions, arts and culture performances, exhibitions and other events.

As for sports programmes, RTHK will continue to produce the 1-hour live magazine programme “Sports Unlimited”, which mainly reports local news in sports, covering the sports matches of the week, local sports news and special topics. Subject to the impact of COVID-19, RTHK will continue to broadcast various kinds of live and recorded sports matches. However, as sports matches are still affected by the pandemic, it is difficult to confirm the matches that can be broadcast at this stage. The expenditure involved is absorbed from within existing resources of RTHK. There is no individual breakdown of expenditure and manpower.

(h) In 2020-21, RTHK acquired 501 episodes of programmes, which accounted for 388 hours. The percentages of acquired programmes produced overseas, in the Mainland and in Hong Kong were 94.8%, 3.7% and 1.5% respectively. The expenditure involved was absorbed from within existing resources of RTHK. There was no individual breakdown of expenditure.

(i) In view of the pandemic, the 2020-21 TV Programming Commissioning is suspended. However, the pandemic has led to the craze of filming videos at home. As such, RTHK has launched new crowdsourcing projects in 2020-21, including “31 Cares”, “Filming Hong Kong”, “Arts On Air, Music Platform”, “Artspiration: Works From Home” and “Sports Unlimited” (inviting athletes to share their anti-pandemic tips), and the number of programme hours exceeds 40.

(j) In 2020-21, the hours of transmission of live events of RTHK TV 31 and RTHK TV 32 was over 2 600, covering the flag-raising ceremonies and receptions in celebration of anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the National Day, the TV forums of the Chief Executive’s Policy Address and Financial Secretary’s Budget Speech, Honours and Awards Presentation Ceremony, ceremony to commemorate victory day of Chinese people’s war of resistance against Japanese aggression, government press conferences, clarifications and messages provided by the Information Services Department, relay of important Mainland and overseas events, etc. Besides, RTHK produces live programmes such as “This Morning”, “Tutor Online—Guard Against the Novel Coronavirus”, “Guard Against the Novel Coronavirus”, “830 Magazine”, “830 Weekend Culture”, “City Forum”, “Sports Unlimited”, “Accountability”, “Voices from the Hall”, “Talkabout”, “Healthpedia” and “Investment Era”.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)055

(Question Serial No. 1812)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Radio, (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme,
(4) New Media

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

In view of the Governance and Management of Radio Television Hong Kong Review Report submitted by the dedicated team, how will RTHK draw up priority reform measures, an action plan and a timetable to fully implement the report's recommendations?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 87)

Reply:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) will study the Governance and Management of Radio Television Hong Kong Review Report in detail, and follow up by drawing up priority improvement measures, an action plan and a timetable to fully implement the recommendations, and report progress to the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau on a regular basis. RTHK will review and handle the relevant manpower and resources allocation in accordance with the established mechanism.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CCI)056****(Question Serial No. 1885)**Head: (160) Radio Television Hong KongSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion:

In the past 2 years, what are the staff wastage rates of Radio Television Hong Kong? Of those, what are the number of staff resigned and the number of staff dismissed? In addition, what is the number of existing staff who were previously engaged under non-civil service contracts and are now appointed on civil service terms?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 88)Reply:

The information regarding the turnover and recruitment of civil servants (CS) and non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) for the past 2 financial years (as at 31 December 2020) is as follows:

Financial Year	CS		NCSC Staff		Number of Former RTHK NCSC Staff Engaged on Civil Service Terms
	Number of Staff Leaving RTHK	Wastage Rate	Number of Staff Leaving RTHK ^{Note}	Wastage Rate	
2019-20	25 (including 15 retired, 10 resigned)	3.6%	29 (including 20 resigned, 9 completed contract)	17.7%	16
2020-21 (As at 31 December 2020)	22 (including 14 retired, 6 resigned, 2 completed contract)	3.2%	22 (including 9 resigned, 12 completed contract, 1 early termination of contract)	14.4%	4

Note: Excluding mutual resolution of contracts for taking up civil service appointments of other NCSC positions.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CCI)057****(Question Serial No. 2043)**Head: (160) Radio Television Hong KongSubhead (No. & title): (000) Operational ExpensesProgramme: Not SpecifiedControlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion:

What are the current numbers of civil servants and non-civil service staff of Radio Television Hong Kong respectively? What is the ratio of civil servants to non-civil service staff? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 109)Reply:

The numbers of civil servants and non-civil service staff of Radio Television Hong Kong and the relevant expenditures on emolument are as follows:

	Number of Staff (as at 1 March 2021)	Percentage to Total Number of Staff	The 2020-21 Revised Estimate for Expenditure on Emolument (\$ Million)
Civil Servants	684	80.4%	446.99
Non-civil Service Staff ^{Note}	167	19.6%	71.41

Note: Including Non-civil Service Contract Staff, Post-retirement Service Contract Staff and Departmental Contract Staff.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**CEDB(CCI)058****(Question Serial No. 2070)**Head: (160) Radio Television Hong KongSubhead (No. & title): ()Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television ProgrammeControlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic DevelopmentQuestion:

Please tabulate the production cost of each television programme of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) and the expenditure on each commissioned programme in the past 3 years. What is the ratio of the expenditure on the original productions of RTHK to that of the commissioned programmes? What are the average ratings? What are the manpower and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 110)Reply:

Information on Radio Television Hong Kong's (RTHK) transmission cost of television (TV) programmes for the past 3 years is as follows:

2018-19 (Actual)

Digital Terrestrial Television Channel	Cost Per Transmission Hour of Digital Terrestrial Television Channels (\$)	Average Number of Viewers Per Day
RTHK TV 31	25,150	8 000
RTHK TV 32		1 400

2019-20 (Actual)

Digital Terrestrial Television Channel	Cost Per Transmission Hour of Digital Terrestrial Television Channels (\$)	Average Prime Time TV Ratings* (Number of Viewers)
RTHK TV 31	19,300	19 600
RTHK TV 32		32 700

2020-21 (Revised Estimate)

Digital Terrestrial Television Channel	Cost Per Transmission Hour of Digital Terrestrial Television Channels (\$)	Average Prime Time TV Ratings* (Number of Viewers)
RTHK TV 31	20,600	30 000
RTHK TV 32		12 000

* Starting from the 2021-22 Controlling Officer's Report, RTHK has set more meaningful performance target / indicators. "Average Prime Time TV Ratings" is a new indicator adopted by RTHK, therefore only the audience ratings of 2019-20 (Actual) and 2020-21 (Revised Estimate) can be provided. Prime time refers to 1900 to 2300 hours. RTHK does not keep statistics on the audience ratings of RTHK TV 33.

As for RTHK's commissioned programmes, the expenditure for 2018-19 (Actual), 2019-20 (Actual) and 2020-21 (Revised Estimate) were \$9.9 million, \$10.13 million and \$4.16 million respectively. RTHK has no individual breakdown of transmission cost and manpower for individual programmes and commissioned programmes.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)059

(Question Serial No. 2078)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

In recent years, many viewers lodged complaints against Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) for the programme content being biased and inaccurate, but there is no improvement in the programme quality. It has been 10 years since the last review on the complaint handling mechanism, what are the reasons for RTHK not reviewing the mechanism for years? RTHK has indicated that it would examine the complaint handling mechanism in 2020-21, what are the relevant details? Is there any fund set aside in the estimates this year for the resources for re-examining the mechanism? What are the estimated manpower and expenditure involved in handling the complaint cases this year and next year?

Asked by: Hon QUAT Elizabeth (LegCo internal reference no.: 111)

Reply:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) formulated the departmental complaint handling mechanism and procedures in 2011, which were reviewed and updated from time to time on a need basis, and the latest review and update were conducted in 2020.

The Commerce and Economic Development Bureau released “the Governance and Management of Radio Television Hong Kong Review Report” in February 2021, which recommended RTHK to enhance the complaint handling mechanism to ensure objectivity and impartiality, put special emphasis on editorial complaints, and bring in high-level involvement in responding to significant cases. RTHK will give priority to and proactively follow up on the recommendations.

From 1 April 2020 to 28 February 2021, RTHK received and handled a total of 1 503 programme-related complaints. It is an on-going task for the Corporate Communications and Standards Unit of RTHK to handle complaints, and RTHK does not have separate breakdown of the expenditure involved.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)060

(Question Serial No. 2260)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

There are 760 posts under the establishment of Radio Television Hong Kong. What is the ratio of civil servants to contract staff for programme production? Of those, what is the latest staff wastage rate? What are the reasons for leaving?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

As at 31 March 2021, the numbers of civil servants and contract staff for programme production are 500 and 124 respectively.

In 2020-21 (as at 31 December 2020), 12 civil servants of the Programmer Officer grade (including 7 retired, 3 resigned and 2 completed contract) and 17 contract programme production staff (including 6 resigned, 10 completed contract and 1 early termination of contract) left Radio Television Hong Kong.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)061

(Question Serial No. 2261)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

Among the television programmes produced by Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), what are the programmes and programme hours for publicising government policies? Will RTHK strengthen the promotion and publicity of government policies in its future work? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon WONG Ting-kwong (LegCo internal reference no.: 32)

Reply:

Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) has all along been cooperating with different government departments to produce television (TV) programmes or organise events, in order to introduce government policies to the public.

RTHK TV 32 broadcasts important government press conferences, clarification messages and “睇真D·知多D” messages provided by the Information Services Department, relays Legislative Council meetings, and broadcasts local, national and international news. Besides, RTHK provides TV relays and pool signal for local TV stations, such as live coverage of the flag-raising ceremonies and receptions in celebration of anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the National Day, the forums of the Chief Executive's Policy Address and the Financial Secretary's Budget Speech, and also provides technical support for events held by the Government, such as the webinar on 30th anniversary of promulgation of Basic Law, Honours and Awards Presentation Ceremony and the ceremony to commemorate victory day of Chinese people's war of resistance against Japanese aggression. In 2020-21, RTHK provided 580 hours of pool signal to media.

In the future, RTHK will continue to collaborate with government departments, committees and non-governmental organisations to produce programmes, so as to promote and publicise government policies to the public.

- End -

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CEDB(CCI)062

(Question Serial No. 1583)

Head: (160) Radio Television Hong Kong

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (1) Radio, (2) Public Affairs and General Television Programme,
(4) New Media

Controlling Officer: Director of Broadcasting (Patrick LI)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

Question:

In light of the public concern over the management of programme content of Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) in recent years, the Governance and Management of Radio Television Hong Kong Review Report was released in February this year, with many recommendations made therein. In 2021-22, which recommendations will be implemented? What is the timetable for the implementation? How will RTHK monitor the progress of the implementation of such recommendations? Given that RTHK is a public service broadcaster, how will the newly appointed Director of Broadcasting direct RTHK to fulfil the public purposes as stipulated in the Charter of RTHK in 2021-22?

Asked by: Hon YUNG Hoi-yan (LegCo internal reference no.: 60)

Reply:

The recommendations in the Governance and Management of Radio Television Hong Kong Review Report (the Review Report) cover 6 aspects: mechanisms for editorial management and complaints handling, performance measurement and evaluation, management of Radio Television Hong Kong's (RTHK) workforce, financial management, stores and procurement, and information technology management. RTHK will study the Review Report in detail, and follow up by drawing up priority improvement measures, an action plan and a timetable to fully implement the recommendations, and report progress to the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau on a regular basis. RTHK will review and handle the relevant manpower and resources allocation in accordance with the established mechanism.

As the Editor-in-chief in RTHK and the head of government department, the Director of Broadcasting will lead RTHK to fulfil the public purposes and mission of public service broadcasting as stipulated in the Charter of RTHK (the Charter), safeguard the editorial independence of RTHK as specified in the Charter and ensure that RTHK fulfils the editorial responsibilities, serves the people of Hong Kong with professionalism, and delivers diversified and high quality programmes and information to the public.

- End -