

10,000 vacancies in civil service 11-7

THERE would be 10,000 to 12,000 civil service vacancies in the next financial year, the Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Martin Rowlands, said yesterday.

Speaking at the civil service careers exhibition at the Chinese University yesterday morning, he said the figure was close to the normal number of new staff the government recruited annually.

He explained that 7,000 recruits are needed to replace staff who had retired or resigned.

It is proposed that 2,000 to 3,000 new openings would most likely be granted to the police, the fire services, the medical and health and education departments.

The government would balance the

growth by deleting an equivalent number of posts elsewhere in the civil service which are either vacant or no longer required.

He said 37 government departments had recently been asked to temporarily freeze their staff recruitment programme, so the government could review the necessity for the growth.

It is expected that the limited manpower growth was due to the "across the board" expansion programme, in all departments of the civil service during the past decade, in response to the demand for more public services.

He expected the size of the civil service to stabilise near its present level of 175,000 to 180,000.

Also speaking at the exhibition, the chairman of the appointment service

consultative committee for Chinese University graduates, Mr Bill Brown, assured the graduates that the government would continue to provide job opportunities for them to boost the localisation and democratic programmes.

The Secretary for Trade and Industry, Mr Eric Ho, said that starting next year, a standard aptitude test would be used to assess all applicants for the posts of administrative and executive officers, labour officers and officers of the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

The candidates, except those seeking positions as administrative officers, would not be required to take a second examination if they passed the aptitude test.