

## 66pc of TV warnings on violence, swearing

By OWEN HUGHES

MORE than two-thirds of Broadcasting Authority warnings to ATV and TVB last year concerned excessive violence and bad language.

The Broadcasting Authority report for the 12 months ending August 31, 1990, revealed out of 24 formal warnings to the two stations, 17 were for "portrayals of violence" and "bad language".

ATV received the severest censure with a \$150,000 fine for twice contravening the code of practice on programme standards for a rape scene shown in the Home Channel drama series *The Police Archives*.

The authority also issued 91 advisory letters, a less severe form of censure, with violence the subject of 22 of these and "undesirable language" making up another eight.

Last night both stations defended their output, saying the figures were down on the previous year's totals and adding that they both exercised self-censorship before any of their programmes were aired.

Mr Lo King-man, who



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chaired the authority's nine-strong Complaints Committee, suggested the amount of televised violence was due to the intense competition between TVB and ATV to attract viewers with both opting for action dramas to get audiences.

"I hope they will take better care in the future to channel the right kind of material on television.

"We are not here to enforce morality but we do take heed of certain standards that have to be upheld."

Asked if he believed both stations had become more

aware of authority strictures against unsuitable material, Mr Lo said monitoring them was a continuous process.

"There is no conclusion. You cannot say that when something happens and a warning is issued that it will not happen again."

A breakdown of the figures in the report showed TVB had 20 warnings issued against it while ATV picked up four. Half of TVB's were for violence with a further six for "bad language". ATV had one warning for violence and although it had none for bad language, it picked up another for "bad taste".

The two stations were closer in the number of warning letters they received with TVB getting 52 to ATV's 39. The figures were not broken down into the Chinese and English channels.

ATV spokeswoman Ms Mabel Tsui said the figure of four complaints compared with 20 received in the previous year. Complaints about violence had shrunk from 12 to one.

For TVB, Mr Li Wing-on said the station's standards and practices division knew the authority's code of practice "from beginning to end"