

Head 169 — SECRETARIAT, COMMISSIONER ON INTERCEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND SURVEILLANCE

Controlling officer: the Secretary, Secretariat, Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2014–15 **\$18.4m**

Establishment ceiling 2014–15 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 19 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2014 and as at 31 March 2015 **\$8.4m**

In addition, there will be an estimated one directorate post as at 31 March 2014 and as at 31 March 2015.

Controlling Officer's Report

Programme

Compliance with Interception and Surveillance Legislation

This programme contributes to Policy Area 9: Internal Security (Secretary for Security).

Detail

	2012–13 (Actual)	2013–14 (Original)	2013–14 (Revised)	2014–15 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	15.9	18.0	17.5 (–2.8%)	18.4 (+5.1%)
				(or +2.2% on 2013–14 Original)

Aim

2 The aim of the Secretariat, Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance (the Secretariat) is to provide support to the Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance (the Commissioner) in overseeing the compliance by law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and their officers with the relevant requirements under the Interception of Communications and Surveillance Ordinance (Cap. 589) (the Ordinance).

Brief Description

3 The Commissioner is appointed by the Chief Executive (CE) as an independent oversight authority to discharge the following functions under the Ordinance:

- conducting reviews on compliance by LEAs and their officers with the relevant requirements under the Ordinance;
- carrying out examinations upon applications from persons who suspect that they are subjects of interception or covert surveillance carried out by LEAs;
- submitting annual reports to the CE which will be tabled at the Legislative Council, and any further reports on matters relating to the performance of his functions under the Ordinance; and
- making recommendations to the Secretary for Security on the code of practice and to heads of LEAs on changes to any arrangements made by the respective LEAs to better carry out the objects of the Ordinance or the provisions of the code of practice.

4 The Secretariat assists the Commissioner in developing and implementing the procedures for overseeing the compliance by LEAs with the relevant requirements under the Ordinance, and in co-ordinating with the Security Bureau, LEAs and the Panel Judges' Office (PJO) in order to ensure the smooth functioning of the regime under the Ordinance. It also provides support to the Commissioner in processing applications for examination and in performing the review function which includes vetting the weekly reports, checking device registers, conducting inspection visits, and investigating cases of non-compliance. The Secretariat also assists the Commissioner in the compilation of the annual report to the CE and in the formulation of recommendations to the Secretary for Security and the heads of LEAs to improve the arrangements in place for the better operation of the Ordinance.

5 In 2013, the Secretariat met its targets and objectives. The annual report of the Commissioner for 2012 was submitted to the CE in June 2013.

**Head 169 — SECRETARIAT, COMMISSIONER ON INTERCEPTION
OF COMMUNICATIONS AND SURVEILLANCE**

6 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	2012 (Actual)	2013 (Actual)	2014 (Plan)
Commissioner's Annual Report to the CE	1	1	1	1
standard response time for answering enquiries				
immediately for enquiries by telephone or in person (%).....	100	100	100	100
within ten days for enquiries in writing (%).....	100	100	100	100

Indicators

	2012 (Actual)	2013 (Actual)	2014 (Estimate)
enquiries received#	60	66	63
applications for examination			
received	18	19	19
not pursued	5	3	—Ω
not entertained	1	0	—Ω
weekly reports from			
LEAs	212	208	208
PJO	53	52	52
no. of visits to LEAs for checking purpose	28	28	28

The number of enquiries received hinges on public needs and may vary from year to year.

Ω Not possible to estimate.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014–15

7 In 2014–15, the Secretariat will continue to assist the Commissioner in carrying out the functions conferred on him under the Ordinance to monitor the compliance by LEAs and their officers with the relevant requirements under the Ordinance.

**Head 169 — SECRETARIAT, COMMISSIONER ON INTERCEPTION
OF COMMUNICATIONS AND SURVEILLANCE**

ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

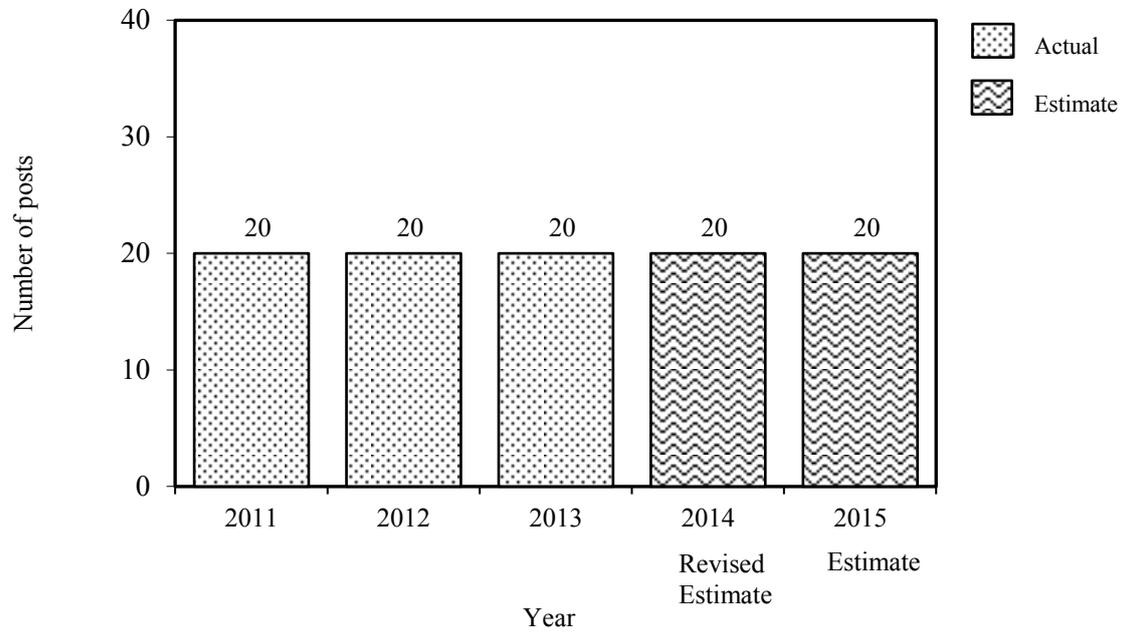
	2012-13 (Actual) (\$m)	2013-14 (Original) (\$m)	2013-14 (Revised) (\$m)	2014-15 (Estimate) (\$m)
Programme				
Compliance with Interception and Surveillance Legislation.....	15.9	18.0	17.5 (-2.8%)	18.4 (+5.1%)
				(or +2.2% on 2013-14 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2014-15 is \$0.9 million (5.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 2013-14. This is mainly due to increase in salary provision resulting from staff changes and salary increments as well as increased requirement for operating expenses.

**Head 169 — SECRETARIAT, COMMISSIONER ON INTERCEPTION
OF COMMUNICATIONS AND SURVEILLANCE**

*Changes in the size of the establishment
(as at 31 March)*



**Head 169 — SECRETARIAT, COMMISSIONER ON INTERCEPTION
OF COMMUNICATIONS AND SURVEILLANCE**

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2012–13	Approved estimate 2013–14	Revised estimate 2013–14	Estimate 2014–15	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	15,928	18,014	17,540	18,404
	Total, Recurrent	15,928	18,014	17,540	18,404
	Total, Operating Account	15,928	18,014	17,540	18,404
<hr/>					
	Total Expenditure	15,928	18,014	17,540	18,404
		<u>15,928</u>	<u>18,014</u>	<u>17,540</u>	<u>18,404</u>

Head 169 — SECRETARIAT, COMMISSIONER ON INTERCEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND SURVEILLANCE

Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2014–15 for the salaries and expenses of the Secretariat, Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance is \$18,404,000. This represents an increase of \$864,000 over the revised estimate for 2013–14 and of \$2,476,000 over actual expenditure in 2012–13.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$18,404,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Secretariat, Commissioner on Interception of Communications and Surveillance.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2014 will be 20 permanent posts. No change in establishment is expected in 2014–15. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2014–15, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$8,442,000.

4 An analysis of the financial provision under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is as follows:

	2012–13 (Actual) (\$'000)	2013–14 (Original) (\$'000)	2013–14 (Revised) (\$'000)	2014–15 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries.....	9,329	9,748	9,385	9,706
- Allowances.....	205	203	302	276
- Job-related allowances.....	—	1	—	1
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	45	34	43	33
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	90	126	270	326
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	6,259	7,902	7,540	8,062
	15,928	18,014	17,540	18,404