

Head 163 — REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE

Controlling officer: the Chief Electoral Officer will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2007–08 **\$230.1m**

Establishment ceiling 2007–08 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 133 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2007 rising by 22 posts to 155 posts as at 31 March 2008 ... **\$53.9m**

In addition, there will be an estimated one directorate post as at 31 March 2007 and as at 31 March 2008.

Controlling Officer's Report

Programme

Electoral Services

This programme contributes to Policy Area 28: Constitutional Affairs (Secretary for Constitutional Affairs).

Detail

	2005–06 (Actual)	2006–07 (Original)	2006–07 (Revised)	2007–08 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	69.8	174.1	132.4 (–24.0%)	230.1 (+73.8%)
				(or +32.2% on 2006–07 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to provide the Electoral Affairs Commission with administrative support in the effective discharge of its statutory functions under the Electoral Affairs Commission Ordinance to ensure that elections are conducted openly, honestly and fairly.

Brief Description

3 The Registration and Electoral Office will, under the direction of the Electoral Affairs Commission, implement the decisions of the Commission in relation to:

- the review and delineation of geographical constituencies for the Legislative Council and District Council constituencies;
- the registration of electors; and
- the conduct and supervision of elections.

4 During 2006–07, the Registration and Electoral Office provided the Electoral Affairs Commission with administrative support to accomplish a number of major tasks, including:

- the conduct of an annual voter registration exercise;
- the promotion and conduct of a voter registration exercise to prepare for the 2006 Election Committee subsector elections;
- the publication of registers of electors for geographical constituencies, functional constituencies and Election Committee subsectors;
- the publication of an interim register and a final register of members of the Election Committee;
- the making of subsidiary legislation on electoral arrangements and guidelines for the Election Committee subsector elections and the Chief Executive elections;
- the issuing of guidelines for the conduct of the 2006 Election Committee subsector elections, the 2007 Chief Executive election and the 2007 Village Representative elections;
- the conduct and supervision of the 2006 Election Committee subsector elections, the 2007 Chief Executive election and two District Council by-elections;
- the supervision of the conduct of the 2007 Village Representative elections and two Village Representative by-elections;
- the submission of reports to the Chief Executive on two District Council by-elections and two Village Representative by-elections;

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- the submission of recommendations to the Chief Executive on the delineation of constituencies for the 2007 District Council election;
- the reallocation of electors affected by the delineation of constituencies for the 2007 District Council election; and
- the registration of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers for use in the Legislative Council elections.

5 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	2005 (Actual)	2006 (Actual)	2007 (Plan)
to conduct annual exercise for			
voter registration	1	1	1
updating records of the registered electors	1	1	1
to organise election(s) for			
Chief Executive	1	—	1
Election Committee subsector	1§	1	—
Legislative Council.....	—	—	as and when necessary§
District Councils.....	4§	2§	1 as and when necessary§
to issue notification of election arrangements to electors ten days before the poll (%).....	100	100	100
to respond to telephone enquiries on election arrangements on polling days within two minutes (%).....	100	100	100
to process complaints on elections within 14 days (%)	100	100	100
to submit recommendations to the Chief Executive on the demarcation of			
constituencies for the 2007 District Council election	—	on 21 Nov	—
geographical constituencies for the 2008 Legislative Council election	—	—	on or before 11 Sep
to submit to the Chief Executive a report on matters relating to			
the Village Representative by-elections	on 25 Feb & on 22 Jun	on 30 Mar, 10 Aug & 14 Dec	on or before 10 Aug
by-elections of the Southern District Council			
Tin Wan Constituency	on 17 Feb	—	—
Ap Lei Chau North Constituency	on 13 Jun	—	—
a by-election of the Sham Shui Po District Council			
Nam Cheong Central Constituency	on 1 Jun	—	—
by-elections of the Eastern District Council			
Fort Street Constituency	on 1 Jun	—	—
Tsui Wan Constituency	—	on 28 Nov	—
the Chief Executive election and the Election Committee subsector by-elections	on 14 Sep	—	—
a by-election of the Kwun Tong District Council			
King Tin Constituency	—	on 14 Jan	—
a by-election of the Central and Western District Council			
Centre Street Constituency	—	on 16 Aug	—
the Village Representative elections.....	—	—	on or before 4 May
the Election Committee subsector elections and Chief Executive election.....	—	—	on or before 22 Jun

§ by-election

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Indicators

	2005 (Actual)	2006 (Actual)	2007 (Estimate)
no. of new electors registered#	30 901	76 192	163 000Ω
no. of elector records updated#	472 991	434 252	227 000@

Figures appeared or expected to appear in the Final Registers of the relevant year.

Ω The estimated increase in the number of new electors registered is due to the conduct of a large-scale voter registration drive in 2007.

@ The estimated reduction in the number of electoral records updated is due to the completion of the Smart Identity Card Replacement Exercise, under which there is a standing arrangement to match addresses of registered electors with addresses of applicants for the smart identity cards, by the Immigration Department.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007–08

6 During 2007–08, the Registration and Electoral Office will continue to provide the Electoral Affairs Commission with administrative support in connection with its work, which includes:

- the promotion and conduct of a voter registration exercise to prepare for the 2007 District Council election;
- the updating of the registers of electors;
- the making of subsidiary legislation on electoral arrangements and guidelines for the District Council elections;
- the conduct and supervision of the 2007 District Council election;
- the supervision of the conduct of two Village Representative by-elections;
- the submission of recommendations to the Chief Executive on the demarcation of geographical constituencies for the 2008 Legislative Council election;
- the submission of reports to the Chief Executive on the 2007 Chief Executive election, the 2007 Village Representative elections and the 2007 District Council election;
- the preparatory work for the conduct of the 2008 Legislative Council election;
- the registration of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers for use in the Legislative Council elections;
- the consideration and follow up of the recommendations of the Director of Audit's Report No. 47; and
- the conduct and supervision of by-elections to the Legislative Council and District Councils, if any.

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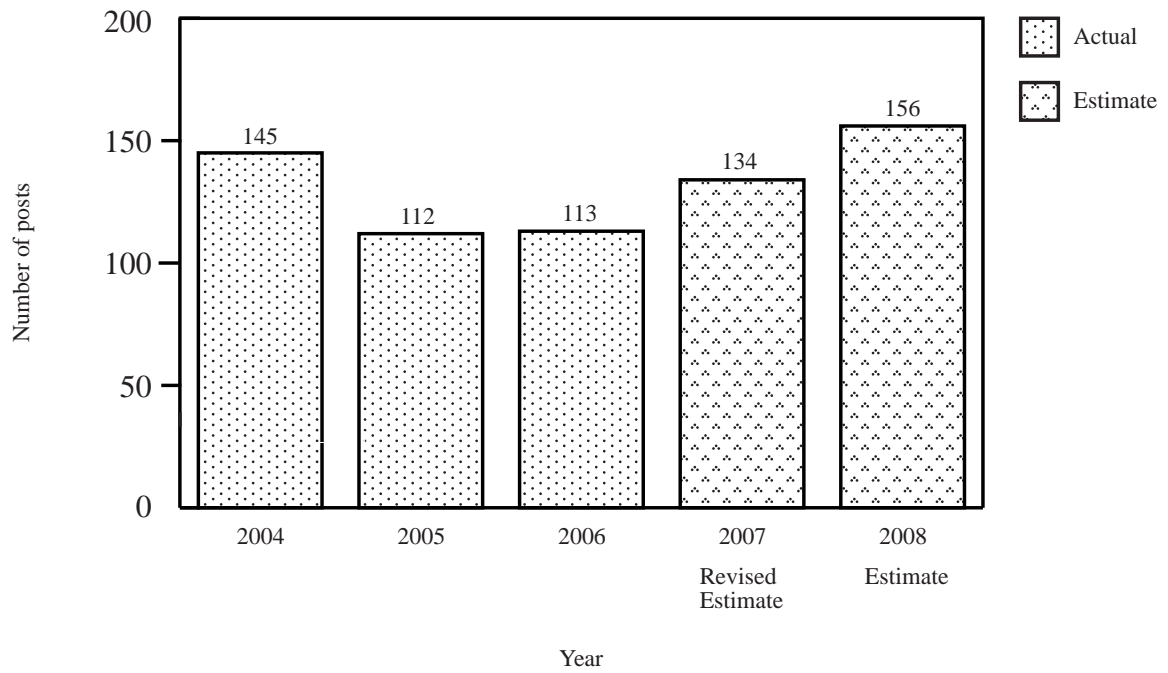
ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2005-06 (Actual) (\$m)	2006-07 (Original) (\$m)	2006-07 (Revised) (\$m)	2007-08 (Estimate) (\$m)
Electoral Services	69.8	174.1	132.4 (-24.0%)	230.1 (+73.8%)
				(or +32.2% on 2006-07 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2007-08 is \$97.7 million (73.8%) higher than the revised estimate for 2006-07. This is mainly due to increased requirements for the conduct of the 2007 District Council election and the preparation for the 2008 Legislative Council election, partly offset by the reduction in requirements for the 2006 Election Committee subsector elections and the 2007 Chief Executive election. There will also be a net creation of 22 posts for undertaking election-related duties and for meeting long-term service needs.

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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2005-06	Approved estimate 2006-07	Revised estimate 2006-07	Estimate 2007-08	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses.....	69,758	174,083	132,425	230,058
	Total, Recurrent	69,758	174,083	132,425	230,058
	Total, Operating Account.....	69,758	174,083	132,425	230,058
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	Total Expenditure.....	69,758	174,083	132,425	230,058

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2007–08 for the salaries and expenses of the Registration and Electoral Office is \$230,058,000. This represents an increase of \$97,633,000 over the revised estimate for 2006–07 and of \$160,300,000 over the actual expenditure in 2005–06.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$230,058,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Registration and Electoral Office. This represents an increase of \$97,633,000 (73.7%) over the revised estimate for 2006–07. This is mainly due to increased requirements for the conduct of the 2007 District Council election and the preparation for the 2008 Legislative Council election, partly offset by the reduction in requirements for the 2006 Election Committee subsector elections and the 2007 Chief Executive election.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2007 will be 134 posts. It is expected that there will be a net creation of 22 posts in 2007–08. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2007–08, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$53,901,000.

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

	2005–06 (Actual) (\$'000)	2006–07 (Original) (\$'000)	2006–07 (Revised) (\$'000)	2007–08 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries.....	35,240	57,832	40,637	53,826
- Allowances.....	532	925	860	733
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	43	30	33	32
Departmental Expenses				
- Honoraria for members of committees.....	480	480	480	480
- General departmental expenses.....	14,658	14,979	14,376	14,348
Other Charges				
- Election expenses.....	18,805	99,837	76,039	160,639
	69,758	174,083	132,425	230,058