

Head 163 — REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE

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

Estimate 2009–10 **\$78.4m**

Establishment ceiling 2009–10 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 120 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2009 increasing by one post to 121 posts as at 31 March 2010. **\$32.7m**

In addition, there will be an estimated one directorate post as at 31 March 2009 and as at 31 March 2010.

Controlling Officer's Report

Programme

Electoral Services

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

Detail

	2007–08 (Actual)	2008–09 (Original)	2008–09 (Revised)	2009–10 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	229.2	352.7	328.7 (-6.8%)	78.4 (-76.1%)
				(or -77.8% on 2008–09 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 2008–09, the Registration and Electoral Office provided the Electoral Affairs Commission with administrative support to accomplish a number of major tasks, including:

- the promotion and conduct of a voter registration exercise for the 2008 Legislative Council election;
- the publication of registers of electors for geographical constituencies, functional constituencies and Election Committee subsectors;
- the making of subsidiary legislation on electoral arrangements for the Legislative Council elections;
- the issuing of guidelines for the conduct of the 2008 Legislative Council election and the District Council by-elections;
- the conduct and supervision of the 2008 Legislative Council election and three District Council by-elections;
- the supervision of the conduct of two Village Representative by-elections;
- the submission of reports to the Chief Executive on the 2008 Legislative Council election, two District Council by-elections and three Village Representative by-elections; and
- the registration of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers for use in the Legislative Council and District Council elections.

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5 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	2007 (Actual)	2008 (Actual)	2009 (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	—	—
Legislative Council.....	—	1	—
	1§	—	as and when necessary§
District Councils	1	—	—
	4§	2§	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 complete processing of an elector registration or updating of an elector record within 14 days (%)‡	—	100	100
to complete initial processing actions on election-related complaints within five working days(%)^	100	100	100
to submit recommendations to the Chief Executive on the demarcation of geographical constituencies for the 2008 Legislative Council election.....	on 11 Sep	—	—
to submit to the Chief Executive a report on matters relating to the Village Representative by-elections	on 24 Aug	on 1 Apr & 15 Aug	on or before 23 Feb
the Village Representative elections.....	on 3 May	—	—
by-elections of the Sha Tin District Council	on 6 Jun	—	—
Kam Ying Constituency	—	—	on or before 26 Jun
Tai Wai Constituency	—	—	—
the Election Committee subsector elections and Chief Executive election	on 22 Jun	—	—
a by-election of the Kwun Tong District Council	on 17 Aug	—	—
Kai Yip Constituency	on 23 Aug	—	—
a by-election of the Tai Po District Council	on 26 Oct	—	—
Hong Lok Yuen Constituency	—	on 15 Feb	—
a by-election of the Kowloon City District Council	—	on 22 Feb	—
Hung Hom Bay Constituency	—	on 5 Dec	—
the District Council election	—	on 31 Dec	—
a by-election of the Legislative Council Hong Kong	—	—	—
Island Geographical Constituency	—	—	—
the Legislative Council election	—	—	—
a by-election of the Yau Tsim Mong District Council	—	—	—
Jordan East Constituency.....	—	—	—
a by-election of the Wong Tai Sin District Council	—	—	on or before 27 Feb
Tsz Wan West Constituency.....	—	—	—

§ by-election.

‡ New performance target as from 2008.

^ New performance target as from 2008 to reflect REO's performance in completing initial processing actions on election-related complaints. The figure for 2007 reflects REO's performance in processing complaints in elections within the previous target of 14 days.

Indicators

	2007 (Actual)	2008 (Actual)	2009 (Estimate)
no. of new electors registered#.....	144 837	212 636	38 000
no. of elector records updated#.....	288 351	274 058	68 000

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

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Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2009–10

6 During 2009–10, 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;
- the updating of the registers of electors;
- the making of subsidiary legislation on electoral arrangements for elections, if necessary;
- the review of overall electoral arrangements with a view to providing better services to electors and candidates in future elections;
- the supervision of the conduct of two Village Representative by-elections;
- the making of relevant subsidiary legislation on the related electoral arrangements subject to the passage of amendment bills to relax the disqualification of prisoner's right to register as electors and to vote;
- the making of electoral arrangements to allow remanded unconvicted persons to cast their votes at elections;
- the registration of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers for use in the Legislative Council and District Council elections; 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

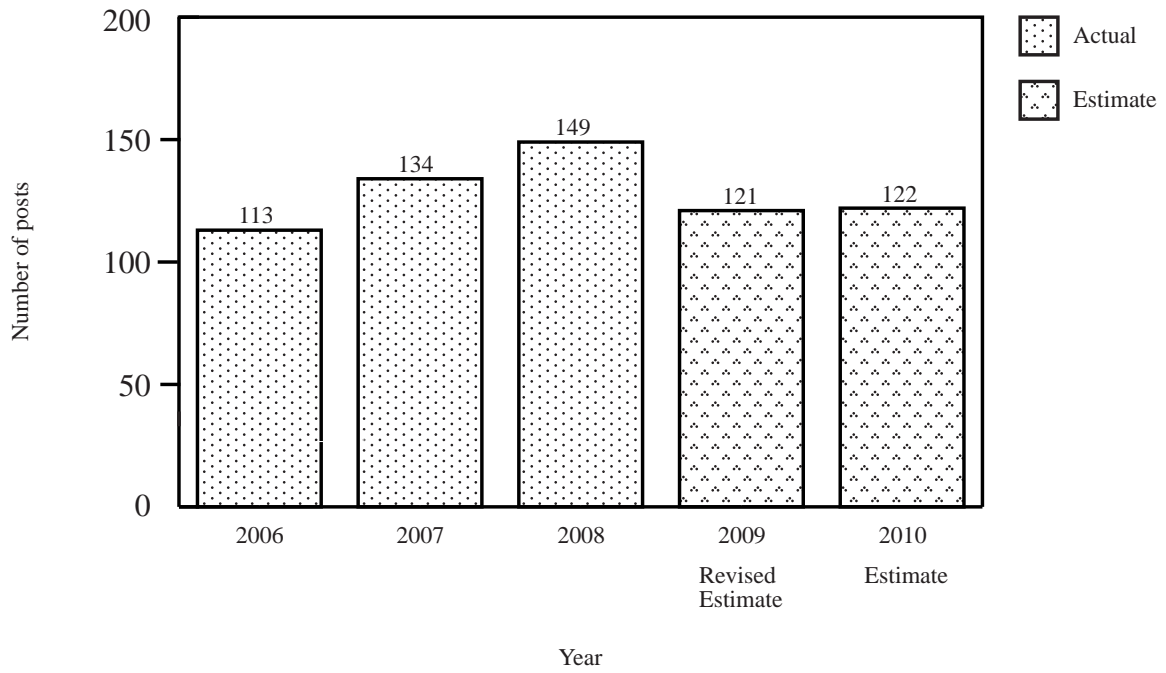
Programme	2007-08 (Actual) (\$m)	2008-09 (Original) (\$m)	2008-09 (Revised) (\$m)	2009-10 (Estimate) (\$m)
Electoral Services.....	229.2	352.7	328.7 (-6.8%)	78.4 (-76.1%)
				(or -77.8% on 2008-09 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2009-10 is \$250.3 million (76.1%) lower than the revised estimate for 2008-09. This is mainly due to the reduction in requirements upon completion of the 2008 Legislative Council election. In addition, one post will be created in 2009-10.

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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2007-08	Approved estimate 2008-09	Revised estimate 2008-09	Estimate 2009-10	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	229,203	352,739	328,671	78,444
	Total, Recurrent	229,203	352,739	328,671	78,444
	Total, Operating Account	229,203	352,739	328,671	78,444
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	Total Expenditure	229,203	352,739	328,671	78,444

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2009–10 for the salaries and expenses of the Registration and Electoral Office is \$78,444,000. This represents a decrease of \$250,227,000 against the revised estimate for 2008–09 and of \$150,759,000 against the actual expenditure in 2007–08.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$78,444,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Registration and Electoral Office. This represents a decrease of \$250,227,000 (76.1%) against the revised estimate for 2008–09. This is mainly due to the reduction in requirements upon completion of the 2008 Legislative Council election.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2009 will be 121 permanent posts. It is expected that one permanent post will be created in 2009–10. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2009–10, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$32,703,000.

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

	2007–08 (Actual) (\$'000)	2008–09 (Original) (\$'000)	2008–09 (Revised) (\$'000)	2009–10 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	44,360	54,005	47,837	39,458
- Allowances	1,216	537	1,696	698
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	60	85	118	72
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	—	95	97	148
Departmental Expenses				
- Honoraria for members of committees	480	480	480	480
- General departmental expenses	13,495	14,430	15,235	14,430
Other Charges				
- Election expenses	169,592	283,107	263,208	23,158
	229,203	352,739	328,671	78,444