

Head 24 — AUDIT COMMISSION

Controlling officer: the Director of Audit will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2010–11 **\$121.6m**

Establishment ceiling 2010–11 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 173 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2010 and as at 31 March 2011 **\$87.1m**

In addition, there will be an estimated 12 directorate posts as at 31 March 2010 and as at 31 March 2011.

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

The Commission operates independently from the Administration. Its programmes are:

Programme (1) Regularity Audit	These programmes provide an independent check on the Administration and complement the programmes in Policy Area 25: Revenue Collection and Financial Control (Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury).
Programme (2) Value for Money Audit	

Detail

Programme (1): Regularity Audit

	2008–09 (Actual)	2009–10 (Original)	2009–10 (Revised)	2010–11 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	38.0	38.1	36.1 (–5.2%)	37.3 (+3.3%)
				(or –2.1% on 2009–10 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to provide the Legislative Council with an overall assurance that the Government's financial and accounting transactions and those of funds of a public or quasi-public nature are proper and that they conform to accepted accounting standards.

Brief Description

3 The Audit Commission audits the accounts of all government departments and offices, and the accounts of the Housing Authority, the trading funds, and the funds established under section 29 of the Public Finance Ordinance. The Commission also audits 66 non-government fund accounts and subvention expenditure. A total of 82 accounts were certified each in 2008–09 and 2009–10, and the number of accounts to be certified in 2010–11 will be 83. The provision spent on regularity audit, as a percentage of the total provision for the Commission, was about 32 per cent and 30 per cent in 2008–09 and 2009–10 respectively, and will be slightly adjusted to 31 per cent in 2010–11.

4 The key performance measures in respect of regularity audit are:

Targets

	Target	2008–09 (Actual)	2009–10 (Revised Estimate)	2010–11 (Plan)
Director of Audit's Reports submitted to the Legislative Council.....	1	1	1	1
time required to certify the statements of accounts of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region after the end of each financial year (months).....	7	7	7	7

Head 24 — AUDIT COMMISSION

Indicators

	2008–09 (Actual)	2009–10 (Revised Estimate)	2010–11 (Estimate)
accounts certified.....	82	82	83
man-hours spent	83 667	84 254	87 435
provision for regularity audit as percentage of total government expenditure (%).....	0.012	0.012	0.012
providing assurance on combined actual expenditure and revenue in accounts audited (\$ billion)	801	N.A.#	N.A.#

Not possible to estimate.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010–11

5 During 2010–11, the Commission will continue to enhance the research work on industry practice and audit methodology in line with latest international standards.

Programme (2): Value for Money Audit

	2008–09 (Actual)	2009–10 (Original)	2009–10 (Revised)	2010–11 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	82.4	84.3	82.9 (–1.7%)	84.3 (+1.7%)
				(or same as 2009–10 Original)

Aim

6 The aim is to provide the Legislative Council with independent information, advice and assurance about the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which any bureau/department of the Government, agency, other public body, public office, or audited organisation has discharged its functions.

Brief Description

7 The Audit Commission conducts value for money audit on the performance of the audited bodies to ensure that their functions are discharged economically, efficiently and effectively, with reports submitted to the Legislative Council twice a year. The provision spent on value for money audit, as a percentage of the total provision for the Commission, was about 68 per cent and 70 per cent in 2008–09 and 2009–10 respectively, and will be slightly adjusted to 69 per cent in 2010–11.

8 The key performance measures in respect of value for money audit are:

Targets

	Target	2008–09 (Actual)	2009–10 (Revised Estimate)	2010–11 (Plan)
Director of Audit's Reports submitted to the Legislative Council.....	2	2	2	2
value for money audit reports issued to audited bodies	19	19	19	19

Indicators

	2008–09 (Actual)	2009–10 (Revised Estimate)	2010–11 (Estimate)
man-hours spent	158 253	164 580	166 022
provision for value for money audit as percentage of total government expenditure (%).....	0.026	0.028	0.027
actual number of recommendations accepted for implementation	611	N.A.#	N.A.#

Not possible to estimate.

Head 24 — AUDIT COMMISSION

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010–11

9 During 2010–11, the Commission will continue to monitor closely the development of various government programmes and keep in view the need to conduct value for money studies which help enhance public sector performance and accountability. To ensure resources are allocated to audit areas which are worth pursuing, the Commission will continue to select subjects for review based on established audit criteria such as materiality and timeliness.

Head 24 — AUDIT COMMISSION

ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2008-09 (Actual) (\$m)	2009-10 (Original) (\$m)	2009-10 (Revised) (\$m)	2010-11 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Regularity Audit	38.0	38.1	36.1	37.3
(2) Value for Money Audit	82.4	84.3	82.9	84.3
	120.4	122.4	119.0 (-2.8%)	121.6 (+2.2%)
				(or -0.7% on 2009-10 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

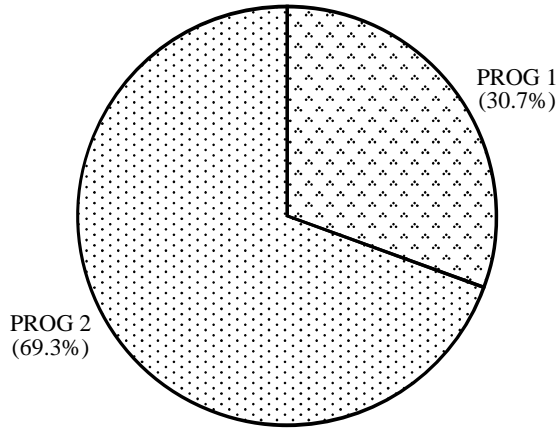
Programme (1)

Provision for 2010-11 is \$1.2 million (3.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2009-10. This is mainly due to increased salary provision arising from staff changes and increased requirement for general departmental expenses.

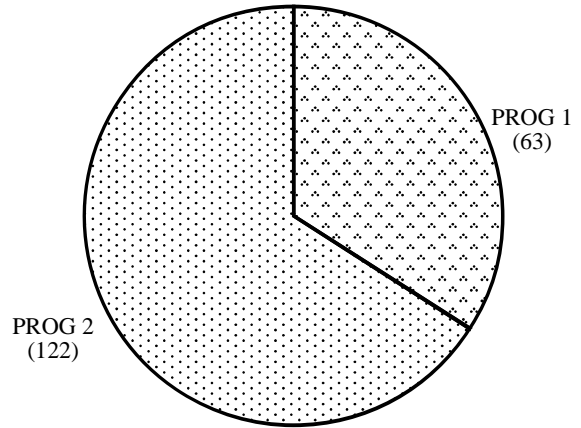
Programme (2)

Provision for 2010-11 is \$1.4 million (1.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2009-10. This is mainly due to the increased requirement for general departmental expenses.

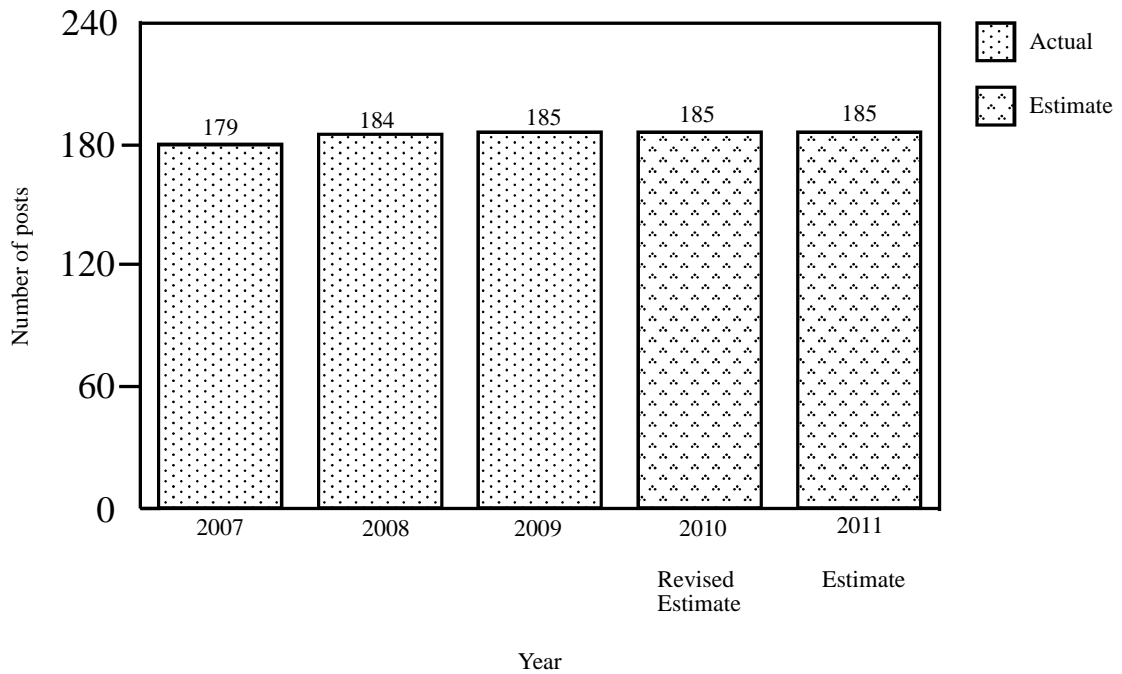
Allocation of provision to programmes (2010-11)



Staff by programme (as at 31 March 2011)



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



Head 24 — AUDIT COMMISSION

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2008-09	Approved estimate 2009-10	Revised estimate 2009-10	Estimate 2010-11	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses.....	120,442	122,364	118,991	121,638
	Total, Recurrent.....	<u>120,442</u>	<u>122,364</u>	<u>118,991</u>	<u>121,638</u>
	Total, Operating Account.....	<u>120,442</u>	<u>122,364</u>	<u>118,991</u>	<u>121,638</u>
<hr/>					
	Total Expenditure.....	<u><u>120,442</u></u>	<u><u>122,364</u></u>	<u><u>118,991</u></u>	<u><u>121,638</u></u>

Head 24 — AUDIT COMMISSION

Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2010–11 for the salaries and expenses of the Audit Commission is \$121,638,000. This represents an increase of \$2,647,000 over the revised estimate for 2009–10 and of \$1,196,000 over actual expenditure in 2008–09.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$121,638,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Audit Commission.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2010 will be 185 permanent posts. No change in establishment is expected in 2010–11. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2010–11, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$87,084,000.

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

	2008–09 (Actual) (\$'000)	2009–10 (Original) (\$'000)	2009–10 (Revised) (\$'000)	2010–11 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	114,428	114,560	113,054	113,133
- Allowances	650	400	418	470
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	108	192	186	244
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	74	78	78	85
Departmental Expenses				
- Remuneration for special appointments ...	2,221	2,221	2,221	2,221
- General departmental expenses	2,961	4,913	3,034	5,485
	120,442	122,364	118,991	121,638