

## Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**Controlling officer:** the Director of Administration and Development will account for expenditure under this Head.

**Estimate 2016–17** ..... **\$2,240.9m**

**Establishment ceiling 2016–17** (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 1 205 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2016 rising by 35 posts to 1 240 posts as at 31 March 2017 ..... **\$731.1m**

In addition, there will be an estimated 91 directorate posts as at 31 March 2016 rising by two posts to 93 posts as at 31 March 2017.

**Commitment balance**..... **\$5.7m**

### Controlling Officer's Report

#### Programmes

<p><b>Programme (1) Prosecutions</b>  <b>Programme (2) Civil</b>  <b>Programme (3) Legal Policy</b>  <b>Programme (4) Law Drafting</b>  <b>Programme (5) International Law</b></p>	<p>These programmes contribute to Policy Area 11: Legal Administration (Secretary for Justice).</p>
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#### Detail

##### Programme (1): Prosecutions

	2014–15 (Actual)	2015–16 (Original)	2015–16 (Revised)	<b>2016–17 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	676.6	711.7	681.9 (–4.2%)	<b>900.3</b> (+32.0%)
				(or +26.5% on 2015–16 Original)

#### *Aim*

**2** The aim is to advise and decide whether or not criminal proceedings should be undertaken and to prosecute cases in the courts.

#### *Brief Description*

**3** The Prosecutions Division advises upon and prosecutes criminal cases in all the courts of Hong Kong. Apart from Government Counsel in the Advocacy Sub-division, whose work is primarily advocacy, and who prosecute the more serious cases, Government Counsel across the Division prosecute in trials; appear in appeals, applications for bail and asset recovery cases; and assist the coroner in inquests. Most cases in the Magistrates' Courts are prosecuted by Court Prosecutors. Some cases are briefed out to members of the Bar and solicitors in private practice. The Division also advises law enforcement agencies and other government departments and agencies on criminal law and procedure and the effects of legislation.

**4** The advisory function of the Prosecutions Division is performed by Government Counsel in various sections. One section is involved in the Division's training and management matters; other sections are involved in the preparation of cases for trial; whilst specialist sections advise on areas as diverse as corruption, fraud, labour and immigration, vice, obscenity, gambling, anti-terrorism, triads and organised crime, human rights and the Basic Law, complaints against the Police, narcotics, the recovery of the proceeds of crime, customs and excise, computer crime, copyright and market misconduct.

**5** In 2015, the aim of the programme was generally met and the overall performance under the programme was satisfactory.

## Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

6 The key performance measures are:

### *Targets*

	Target	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Plan)
providing advice for law enforcement agencies within 14 working days upon receipt of request, or for a complex case, interim reply within 14 working days (%).....	100	94.0	94.4	<b>100</b>
preparing and filing indictments in the Court of First Instance within seven days of committal of the accused in the Magistrates' Court (%)....	100	100	100	<b>100</b>
preparing and delivering charge sheets to the Registrar of the District Court within 14 days after the date of the order of transfer of the case from the Magistrates' Court to the District Court (%).....	100	100	100	<b>100</b>

### *Indicators*

	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Estimate)
cases conducted by Government Counsel.....	4 136	3 685	<b>3 690</b>
cases conducted by Counsel instructed to prosecute in all courts .....	1 554	1 871	<b>1 870</b>
court days undertaken by Government Counsel .....	3 846	3 203	<b>3 200</b>
court days undertaken by Court Prosecutors in Magistrates' Court .....	9 987	9 474	<b>9 470</b>
court days undertaken by Counsel instructed to prosecute in the Magistrates' Court in place of Court Prosecutors.....	5 109	5 585	<b>5 590</b>
cases prepared for the Court of First Instance.....	540	503	<b>500</b>
cases prepared for the District Court.....	1 085	1 115	<b>1 120</b>
items of legal advice provided .....	12 896	13 348	<b>13 350</b>
appeals conducted .....	1 229	1 185	<b>1 190</b>

7 The conviction rates for 2014 and 2015 are:

	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Actual)
Magistrates' Court		
- defendants convicted after trial (%).....	50.3	<b>52.0</b>
- defendants convicted after trial and defendants convicted on their own pleas (%).....	74.6	<b>74.6</b>
District Court		
- defendants convicted after trial (%).....	89.1	<b>70.2</b>
- defendants convicted after trial and defendants convicted on their own pleas (%).....	97.6	<b>93.4</b>
Court of First Instance		
- defendants convicted after trial (%).....	64.2	<b>68.8</b>
- defendants convicted after trial and defendants convicted on their own pleas (%).....	92.3	<b>93.5</b>

The conviction rates are defendant-based and relate to any substantive or alternative offence on which the defendant has been convicted. It does not take into account acquittals of other charges if any.

It should be noted that while it is the duty of Counsel and Court Prosecutors to prosecute vigorously in courts, they have to act in a fair and objective manner. It is wrong to strive to secure a conviction at all costs. The question of guilt or innocence is a matter for the court to decide. Therefore, conviction rates in criminal cases are not and should not be taken as performance indicators. They are published regularly for reference only.

## Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2016–17*

- 8 During 2016–17, the Prosecutions Division will continue to implement measures to:
- promote co-operation amongst prosecutors at the global level in the combat against crime;
  - enhance the quality of criminal justice by promoting transparency in public prosecutions, liaising closely with justice partners and reviewing the disclosure arrangements of law enforcement agencies;
  - enhance the standards of advocacy and preparation in criminal cases; and
  - enhance the public’s understanding of the criminal justice system and their role in the system.

### **Programme (2): Civil**

	2014–15 (Actual)	2015–16 (Original)	2015–16 (Revised)	<b>2016–17 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	539.3	967.7	752.5 (–22.2%)	<b>1,025.9</b> (+36.3%)
				(or +6.0% on 2015–16 Original)

### *Aim*

9 The aim is to provide legal advice to the Government on civil matters, to undertake civil litigation and other forms of dispute resolution and to draft contracts on commercial and other matters.

### *Brief Description*

- 10 The work of the Civil Division includes:
- representing the Government and various other bodies in courts and tribunals in all forms of civil litigation and dispute resolution (including non-construction arbitration and mediation);
  - providing legal advice on planning, land, building, environment, heritage and housing matters;
  - providing legal advice on commercial law matters and drafting commercial contracts, licences and franchises;
  - providing legal advice on legislation and civil law matters; and
  - providing advice and support to the development of the wider use of mediation to resolve disputes in Hong Kong.

11 In 2015, the aim of the programme was generally met and the overall performance under the programme was satisfactory.

- 12 The key performance measures are:

### *Targets*

	Target	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Actual)	<b>2016 (Plan)</b>
taking appropriate follow-up action on civil litigation cases within seven working days upon referral by client department (%) .....	100	100	100	<b>100</b>
providing legal advice within 14 working days upon receipt of instructions/requests (%)# .....	92	89	90	<b>92</b>

# If that is not possible due to the complexity of cases, the client department will be advised of the estimated time within which the advice will be provided.

### *Indicators*

	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Actual)	<b>2016 (Estimate)</b>
civil litigation cases current on 31 December .....	34 593	35 677	<b>35 675</b>
new proceedings (including non-construction arbitration and mediation) brought by the Government .....	1 672	1 768	<b>1 860</b>
new proceedings (including non-construction arbitration and mediation) brought against the Government .....	1 088	1 624	<b>1 680</b>
person days of court appearances .....	1 074	1 672	<b>1 670</b>

## Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Estimate)
items of legal advice provided .....	15 284	15 161	<b>15 160</b>
commercial tenders, consultancy briefs, contracts, licences and franchises drafted/vetted .....	699	676	<b>675</b>

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2016–17*

**13** During 2016–17, the Civil Division will advise on the legal aspects of:

- proceedings involving the Government, in particular those involving the Basic Law and administrative law issues, civil service matters, immigration matters, revenue matters, charities and trusts, contempt of court, contractual/commercial disputes, land matters, arbitration cases under the Pilot Scheme for Arbitration on Land Premium, building matters, town planning matters, environmental issues, rating appeals, government rent appeals and damages claims including personal injuries and other claims taking on board changes since the implementation of the Civil Justice Reform;
- the English and Chinese texts of contracts, undertakings, tender documents, public franchises, licences and other legal documents for the Government, in addition to drafting and vetting such texts;
- non-refoulement claims made under the unified screening mechanism and related issues;
- the regulation of companies, securities, insurance, information technology, electronic transactions, e-commerce, transportation, broadcasting and telecommunications as well as proposals for reform;
- the implementation of the Hong Kong Disneyland and Ocean Park projects;
- legislative initiatives with regard to the exercise to improve corporate insolvency law;
- preparatory work for commencement of operation of the independent Insurance Authority;
- implementation of the Judiciary’s Information and Technology Strategy Plan to facilitate court users by providing them with an electronic option for court processes;
- review of the family procedure rules;
- implementation of the Law Reform Commission Report on Child Custody and Access;
- new regulatory framework for the tourism sector;
- development of private hospitals;
- taking forward the results of the review of the regulatory framework of the post-2018 local electricity market;
- proposed establishment of a voluntary health insurance scheme;
- legislative amendments to the marine and aviation related legislation;
- one-off assistance package to owners of trawler vessels, local deckhands and owners of fish collector vessels affected by the trawl ban;
- the implementation of the Residential Properties (First-hand Sales) Ordinance (Cap. 621);
- proposed legislation for a licensing scheme to regulate private columbaria;
- proposed legislation for revamping the existing regulatory regime for private healthcare facilities and for regulating medical devices;
- matters arising from or in connection with the excess lead in drinking water incident discovered in July 2015;
- various studies, projects and initiatives, including those in relation to the enhancement of the soundness and resilience of Hong Kong’s financial system and strengthening of Hong Kong’s role as an international financial centre amidst the changing financial circumstances, West Kowloon Cultural District, the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, the development of North East New Territories New Development Areas and construction and operation of youth hostels; and
- proposed apology legislation to promote the making of apologies in order to facilitate settlement of disputes by clarifying the legal consequences of making an apology.

## Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### Programme (3): Legal Policy

	2014–15 (Actual)	2015–16 (Original)	2015–16 (Revised)	<b>2016–17 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	108.4	116.9	112.0 (–4.2%)	<b>128.3</b> (+14.6%)
				(or +9.8% on 2015–16 Original)

#### *Aim*

**14** The aim is to advise the Government on matters raising questions of legal policy; to assist in formulating policy, particularly in relation to the legal system and the legal profession; to provide support to the Secretary for Justice in relation to the discharge of his duties; to provide advice in respect of the Basic Law, human rights and constitutional affairs as well as the law and legal developments in the Mainland and other parts of Greater China; and to review chosen areas of the law and provide secretariat support for the Law Reform Commission.

#### *Brief Description*

**15** The work of the Secretary for Justice's Office and the Legal Policy Division includes:

- providing support for the Secretary for Justice in relation to his duties as a Member of the Executive Council, a designated officer attending meetings of the Legislative Council (LegCo) and as the principal legal adviser to the Chief Executive;
- advising whether a policy or proposed legislation is contrary to established principles underlying the legal system;
- advising on legal issues arising out of prisoners' petitions for remission, references of cases to the Court of Appeal under the Criminal Procedure Ordinance (Cap. 221) and responses to public enquiries and complaints;
- advising on compliance with the human rights provisions of the Basic Law, human rights treaties extended to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), the Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance (Cap. 383), and anti-discrimination legislation;
- providing legal advice on constitutional development and election matters;
- promoting bills related to the legal system or the legal profession, and bills effecting law reform or miscellaneous amendments to various ordinances;
- providing advice and information on the laws of the Mainland and other parts of Greater China; attending to matters on the further liberalisation of the Mainland's legal services market and on co-operation arrangements with the Mainland and other parts of Greater China; organising seminars and promotional activities in the Mainland and arranging other co-operation activities in the context of the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement between the Mainland and Hong Kong (CEPA);
- providing advice to the Government on LegCo procedures and practice;
- promoting Hong Kong as a regional hub of international legal and dispute resolution services;
- providing advice on and promoting knowledge of the Basic Law;
- providing research, legal services, and secretariat support to facilitate the work of the Inter-departmental Working Group on Gender Recognition, chaired by the Secretary for Justice; and
- giving advice and providing research and secretariat support to facilitate the work of the Law Reform Commission, chaired by the Secretary for Justice.

**16** In 2015, the aim of the programme was generally met and the overall performance under the programme was satisfactory.

**17** The key performance measures are:

#### *Indicators*

	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Actual)	<b>2016 (Estimate)</b>
bills promoted by the Legal Policy Division in each LegCo session.....	2	1	<b>2</b>
petitions (from prisoners) handled .....	70	53	<b>53</b>

## Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Estimate)
items of legal advice given on:			
general legal policy issues.....	1 760	1 920	1 920
human rights issues .....	1 290	1 150	1 150
Mainland law and related matters .....	295	302	300
Basic Law and constitutional matters .....	1 055	1 006	1 006
constitutional development and election matters .....	750	1 007	1 200
ongoing Law Reform Commission projects .....	8	7	8
speeches prepared (both for LegCo and elsewhere) .....	95	126	123
Basic Law seminars conducted .....	10	7	7
briefings given in the Mainland and to Mainland delegations in Hong Kong .....	25	18	18

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2016–17*

- 18** During 2016–17, the Secretary for Justice’s Office and the Legal Policy Division will continue to:
- promote the use of arbitration in Hong Kong and publicise Hong Kong’s arbitration regime;
  - promote Hong Kong as a regional centre for legal and dispute resolution services;
  - provide support to the Advisory Committee on Promotion of Arbitration, chaired by the Secretary for Justice, to enhance the efforts to foster the promotion of arbitration services in Hong Kong in accordance with the policy objective of the Government;
  - provide legal advice on and promote knowledge of the Basic Law;
  - provide human rights advice including advice on anti-discrimination legislation;
  - provide legal advice on constitutional development, and on election matters (including by-elections and post-election matters);
  - develop expertise in respect of legislative powers, procedures and practices in the context of the Basic Law;
  - provide support to the Inter-departmental Working Group on Gender Recognition, chaired by the Secretary for Justice, which is studying possible legislation on gender recognition in respect of transsexual persons in the light of observations made by the Court of Final Appeal in the *W* case (FACV 4/2012);
  - explore further opportunities for Hong Kong legal professionals to provide services in the Mainland;
  - develop working relationships with counterparts in the Mainland and other parts of Greater China; and
  - organise visits and training programmes in Hong Kong for Mainland officials and seminars and other promotional activities in the Mainland in order to develop and enhance mutual understanding of the legal systems and professional practices in HKSAR and the Mainland and to promote Hong Kong’s legal and dispute resolution services in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative.

### **Programme (4): Law Drafting**

	2014–15 (Actual)	2015–16 (Original)	2015–16 (Revised)	2016–17 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	104.2	115.0	117.8 (+2.4%)	126.5 (+7.4%)
				(or +10.0% on 2015–16 Original)

### *Aim*

- 19** The aim is to draft legislation and to make the texts of legislation readily accessible.

### *Brief Description*

- 20** The work of the Law Drafting Division includes:
- drafting of legislation in the English and Chinese languages and assisting policy bureaux in steering such legislation through the law-making process,
  - compiling the loose-leaf edition of the Laws of Hong Kong, and
  - maintaining the Bilingual Laws Information System database and developing a new legislation database with verified content and legal status.

## Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

21 In 2015, the aim of the programme was generally met and the overall performance under the programme was satisfactory.

22 The key performance measures are:

### *Indicators*

	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Estimate)
bills gazetted.....	28	29	16
subsidiary legislation gazetted .....	160	240	240
pages of bills/subsidiary legislation gazetted (English).....	3 870	4 214	3 000
pages of bills/subsidiary legislation gazetted (Chinese) .....	3 870	4 214	3 000
pages of legislation compiled for publication in the loose-leaf edition .....	8 398	3 368	5 000
pages of Committee Stage Amendments (CSAs) proposed by the Government (English)Δ .....	147	138	400
pages of CSAs proposed by the LegCo members (English)Δ .	1 116	670	800
pages of CSAs proposed by the Government (Chinese)Δ .....	141	125	380
pages of CSAs proposed by the LegCo members (Chinese)Δ.	1 115	670	800
drafts of bills/subsidiary legislation released .....	2 342	2 582	2 000
items of legal advice provided .....	6 816	8 582	7 000

Δ The nature of the work is different. For CSAs proposed by the Government, Law Drafting Division has to take instructions from policy bureaux and draft the amendments and assist in their scrutiny by LegCo. For CSAs proposed by LegCo members, Law Drafting Division has to examine the amendments to make sure that they are in the correct format and liaise with the proposers to prepare the final agreed copies.

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2016–17*

23 During 2016–17, the Law Drafting Division will continue to:

- meet the requirements for the drafting of legislation and incidental professional service in an effective manner,
- provide on-the-job training and professional development programmes relating to legislative drafting for counsel to enhance their professional capability,
- compile replacement pages for the loose-leaf edition of the Laws of Hong Kong, and
- update the Bilingual Laws Information System database in a timely and accurate manner and press ahead with the development of the new legislation database with verified content and legal status.

### **Programme (5): International Law**

	2014–15 (Actual)	2015–16 (Original)	2015–16 (Revised)	2016–17 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	54.2	68.7	66.7 (–2.9%)	59.9 (–10.2%)
				(or –12.8% on 2015–16 Original)

### *Aim*

24 The aim is to provide advice on international law issues to the Government and to handle requests for international legal co-operation efficiently.

### *Brief Description*

25 The work of the International Law Division includes:

- providing advice on all aspects of public international law, including the application to the HKSAR of multilateral and bilateral international agreements, maritime and aviation law, consular privileges and immunities, and the resolution of trade disputes;
- negotiating and advising on international agreements, including those on surrender of fugitive offenders, mutual legal assistance, transfer of sentenced persons, investment promotion and protection, air services, avoidance of double taxation and tax information exchange;
- participating in the activities of international organisations such as the Hague Conference on Private International Law and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, negotiating multilateral instruments and fostering international co-operation;

## Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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- providing advice on the international legal aspects of the HKSAR's laws; and
- handling requests to and from the HKSAR for surrender of fugitive offenders, mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, transfer of sentenced persons and enforcement of confiscation orders as well as requests for assistance in international child abduction cases, and advising on matters involving international legal co-operation.

26 In 2015, the aim of the programme was generally met and the overall performance under the programme was satisfactory.

27 The key performance measures are:

### *Indicators*

	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Estimate)
international agreements initialled .....	1	0	2
briefings, negotiation and discussion (no. of working sessions) .....	258	339	340
items of legal advice provided .....	12 062	12 828	12 830
new requests dealt with in various categories of mutual legal assistance .....	434	465	470
court appearances .....	138	122	125

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2016–17*

28 During 2016–17, the International Law Division will continue to:

- provide timely and accurate advice on international law issues and on issues relating to mutual legal assistance,
- negotiate international agreements or contribute as legal advisers in these negotiations,
- participate in the activities of international organisations to foster international co-operation, and
- handle requests for international legal co-operation effectively.



## Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

	2014–15 (Actual) (\$m)	2015–16 (Original) (\$m)	2015–16 (Revised) (\$m)	2016–17 (Estimate) (\$m)
<b>Programme</b>				
(1) Prosecutions .....	676.6	711.7	681.9	<b>900.3</b>
(2) Civil.....	539.3	967.7	752.5	<b>1,025.9</b>
(3) Legal Policy .....	108.4	116.9	112.0	<b>128.3</b>
(4) Law Drafting.....	104.2	115.0	117.8	<b>126.5</b>
(5) International Law .....	54.2	68.7	66.7	<b>59.9</b>
	1,482.7	1,980.0	1,730.9 (–12.6%)	<b>2,240.9</b> <b>(+29.5%)</b>
				<b>(or +13.2% on 2015–16 Original)</b>

#### Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

##### Programme (1)

Provision for 2016–17 is \$218.4 million (32.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2015–16. This is mainly due to the filling of vacancies, net creation of eight posts to meet operational needs, and anticipated increase in briefing-out expenses and court costs.

##### Programme (2)

Provision for 2016–17 is \$273.4 million (36.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2015–16. This is mainly due to the filling of vacancies, net creation of 18 posts to meet operational needs, and anticipated increase in briefing-out expenses and court costs.

##### Programme (3)

Provision for 2016–17 is \$16.3 million (14.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2015–16. This is mainly due to the filling of vacancies, creation of six posts to meet operational needs and anticipated increase in general departmental expenses.

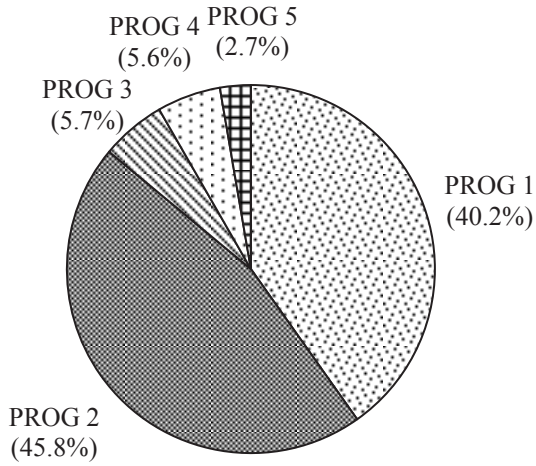
##### Programme (4)

Provision for 2016–17 is \$8.7 million (7.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2015–16. This is mainly due to the filling of vacancies and creation of two posts to meet operational needs.

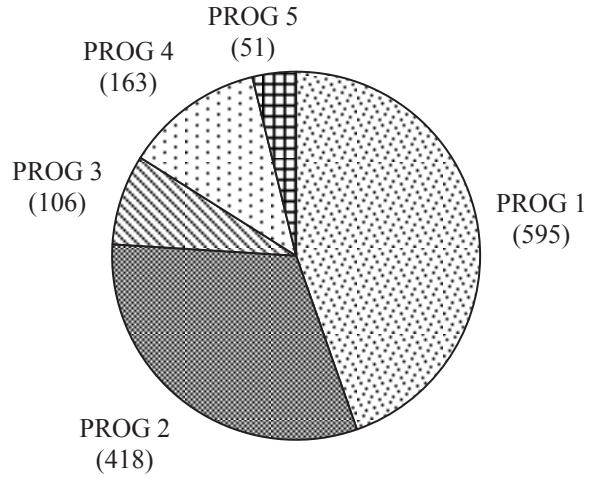
##### Programme (5)

Provision for 2016–17 is \$6.8 million (10.2%) lower than the revised estimate for 2015–16. This is mainly due to anticipated decrease in general departmental expenses, partly offset by the filling of vacancies and creation of three posts to meet operational needs.

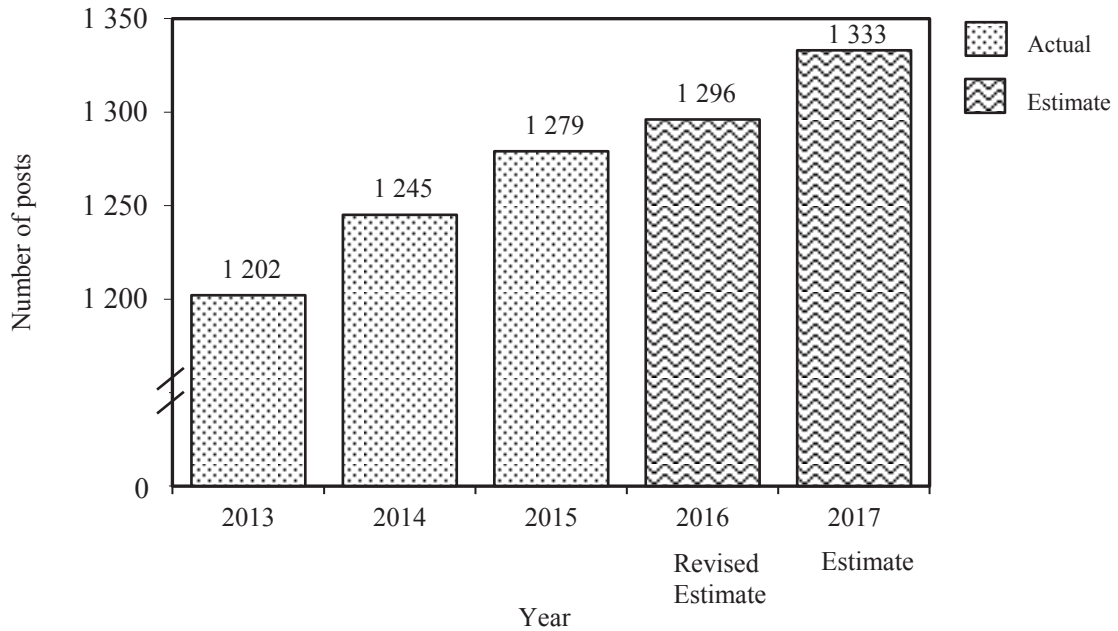
*Allocation of provision to programmes (2016-17)*



*Staff by programme (as at 31 March 2017)*



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



**Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

Sub-head (Code)		Actual expenditure 2014-15	Approved estimate 2015-16	Revised estimate 2015-16	<b>Estimate 2016-17</b>
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Operating Account</b>					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses .....	1,251,575	1,547,288	1,444,277	<b>1,645,059</b>
234	Court costs .....	230,815	432,000	285,950	<b>595,150</b>
	Total, Recurrent.....	<u>1,482,390</u>	<u>1,979,288</u>	<u>1,730,227</u>	<u><b>2,240,209</b></u>
Non-Recurrent					
700	General non-recurrent .....	335	738	678	<b>678</b>
	Total, Non-Recurrent.....	<u>335</u>	<u>738</u>	<u>678</u>	<u><b>678</b></u>
	Total, Operating Account .....	<u>1,482,725</u>	<u>1,980,026</u>	<u>1,730,905</u>	<u><b>2,240,887</b></u>
	Total Expenditure .....	<u><u>1,482,725</u></u>	<u><u>1,980,026</u></u>	<u><u>1,730,905</u></u>	<u><u><b>2,240,887</b></u></u>

## Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2016–17 for the salaries and expenses of the Department of Justice is \$2,240,887,000. This represents an increase of \$509,982,000 over the revised estimate for 2015–16 and \$758,162,000 over the actual expenditure in 2014–15.

#### *Operating Account*

#### Recurrent

**2** Provision of \$1,645,059,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Department of Justice. This includes provision of \$224,200 for a non-accountable entertainment allowance for the Secretary for Justice. The increase of \$200,782,000 (13.9%) over the revised estimate for *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* for 2015–16 is mainly due to the filling of vacancies, creation of new posts to meet operational needs, as well as anticipated increase in briefing-out expenses.

**3** The establishment as at 31 March 2016 will be 1 296 posts including three supernumerary posts. It is expected that there will be a net increase of 37 posts including one supernumerary post in 2016–17. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2016–17 but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$731,054,000.

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

	2014–15 (Actual) (\$'000)	2015–16 (Original) (\$'000)	2015–16 (Revised) (\$'000)	<b>2016–17 (Estimate) (\$'000)</b>
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries.....	748,430	807,734	813,039	<b>848,407</b>
- Allowances.....	14,666	24,672	22,331	<b>26,448</b>
- Job-related allowances.....	—	6	6	<b>6</b>
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	2,383	3,039	2,440	<b>2,823</b>
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	23,085	29,604	31,192	<b>36,821</b>
Departmental Expenses				
- Remuneration for special appointments ....	3,745	3,750	3,950	<b>3,950</b>
- General departmental expenses .....	124,302	148,203	156,732	<b>159,474</b>
Other Charges				
- Hire of legal services and related professional fees .....	231,672	284,780	300,567	<b>325,630</b>
- Legal services and other related costs for arbitration proceedings under the Pilot Scheme for Arbitration on Land Premium.....	—	91,500	3,000	<b>91,500</b>
- Legal services for construction dispute resolution .....	103,292	154,000	111,020	<b>150,000</b>
	1,251,575	1,547,288	1,444,277	<b>1,645,059</b>

**5** Provision of \$595,150,000 under *Subhead 234 Court costs* is for the payment of costs awarded against the Government in criminal and civil cases. This represents an increase of \$309,200,000 (108.1%) over the revised estimate for 2015–16. Since payment of court costs is contingent upon the progress of the relevant negotiations, the level of payment varies from year to year.

## Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2015	Revised estimated expenditure for 2015–16	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b><i>Operating Account</i></b>						
700		<i>General non-recurrent</i>				
	512	Hire of service for translation and Chinese typing .....	5,100	3,296	150	1,654
	513	Conducting mock trials in the Mainland .....	2,400	1,929	168	303
	514	Promotion of rule of law and Hong Kong's legal system.....	8,600	6,659	50	1,891
	519	Development of Mainland-related legal services in Hong Kong.....	4,335	2,129	310	1,896
		Total .....	<u>20,435</u>	<u>14,013</u>	<u>678</u>	<u>5,744</u>