

Head 180 — OFFICE FOR FILM, NEWSPAPER AND ARTICLE ADMINISTRATION

Controlling officer: the Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2016–17 **\$46.9m**

Establishment ceiling 2016–17 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 66 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2016 and as at 31 March 2017. **\$25.5m**

In addition, there will be an estimated one directorate post as at 31 March 2016 and as at 31 March 2017.

Controlling Officer's Report

Programme

Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration

This programme contributes to Policy Area 17: Information Technology and Broadcasting (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development) and Policy Area 18: Recreation, Culture, Amenities and Entertainment Licensing (Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs).

Detail

	2014–15 (Actual)	2015–16 (Original)	2015–16 (Revised)	2016–17 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	41.7	45.4	45.1 (–0.7%)	46.9 (+4.0%)
				(or +3.3% on 2015–16 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to enforce a system of film classification according to the Film Censorship Ordinance (Cap. 392) (FCO) through a censorship scheme which meets the needs and reflects the moral standards of the community; to control, together with the Police and the Customs and Excise Department, the publication of obscene and indecent articles by enforcing the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (Cap. 390) (COIAO); and to register local newspapers under the Registration of Local Newspapers Ordinance (Cap. 268) (RLNO).

Brief Description

3 On film classification, the Office is responsible for the examination of films for public exhibition under the three-tier film classification system and the examination of advertising materials and packaging of films that fall within the statutory definition of Category III (for persons aged 18 or above only). The work of the Office involves:

- classifying films for public exhibition and publication, and granting exemption from classification;
- examining advertising materials and packaging of videodiscs of Category III films;
- inspecting cinemas to enforce the age restriction for audience admission and other provisions under the FCO;
- inspecting video shops and other retail outlets to regulate the publication of films;
- gauging public opinion on film classification standards;
- maintaining a panel of advisers to allow public participation in the film classification process; and
- promoting the three-tier film classification system to the public.

4 On the enforcement of the COIAO, the Office is responsible for:

- regulating the publication and public display of obscene and indecent articles under the COIAO through monitoring articles published in the media and inspecting newspaper stalls, video and computer shops and other retail outlets;
- taking appropriate enforcement and prosecution action against violations of the COIAO;
- liaising with Internet service providers and the Hong Kong Internet Service Providers Association on the regulation of obscene and indecent materials transmitted through the Internet;

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- organising publicity and public education programmes to promote public awareness of the provisions of the COIAO; and
- processing complaints relating to the publication of obscene and indecent articles.

5 In 2015, the Office continued its efforts in promoting public awareness of the protection of youth from indecent and obscene materials. Major activities organised are set out below:

- the COIAO Subsidising Scheme sponsored ten projects launched by voluntary organisations, youth bodies and schools to provide proper counselling and guidance for children and youth;
- the Meritorious Website Contest was held to promote safe and smart use of the Internet;
- a Healthy Application Nomination Programme was organised to promote the use of healthy applications in mobile phones or tablet personal computers;
- district talks and workshops to promote the use of filtering software were conducted, with free filtering software distributed to parent participants;
- 215 schools talks for students/parents on safe and smart use of the Internet to protect the youth from indecent and obscene materials were conducted;
- an Internet video contest was held to promote the healthy use of the Internet among youngsters;
- a student ambassador training scheme was held to recruit students to help promote the COIAO;
- a school drama tour programme was conducted to promote the COIAO to students of primary and secondary schools; and
- a comic contest was conducted to encourage youngsters to stay away from unhealthy materials and electronic games.

6 The Office is also responsible for registering local newspapers and news agencies, and licensing newspaper distributors under the RLNO.

7 The key performance measures in respect of film classification, control of obscene and indecent articles and newspaper registration are:

Targets

	Targets	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Plan)
<i>Film classification</i>				
assigning film viewing sessions for films submitted for classification within seven working days (%).....	100	100	100	100
notifying applicants on decisions about film classification within eight working days (%).....	100	99.8	99.8	100
issuing Certificates of Exemption to applicants within three working days (%).....	100	99.9	100	100
issuing Certificates of Packaging to applicants within two working days (%).....	100	100	100	100
issuing Certificates of Advertising Materials to applicants within two working days (%).....	100	100	100	100
<i>COIAO</i>				
issuing interim replies to complainants within seven working days (%).....	100	99.8	99.7	100
issuing substantive replies to complainants regarding investigation results on their complaints within 20 working days (%).....	100	100	100	100
<i>Newspaper Registration</i>				
new registration for local newspapers within seven working days (%).....	100	100	100	100

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Indicators

	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Estimate)
<i>Film classification</i>			
films classified	1 996	2 065	2 100
films exempted from classification	11 305	11 429	11 500
packaging examined.....	94	109	110
advertising materials of films examined	383	356	360
inspections conducted	1 301	1 300	1 300
<i>COIAO</i>			
articles scrutinised.....	334 358	333 004	330 000
inspections conducted	72 848	72 818	72 600
summonses issued	43	144	77
enforcement operations conducted.....	180	180	180
obscene and indecent articles seized.....	517	143 [^]	140
talks and seminars conducted.....	210	215	210
<i>Newspaper Registration</i>			
local newspapers and news-related publications registered.....	781	736	740
newspaper distributor licences issued	24	22	22

[^] There was a decrease in the number of indecent DVDs and VCDs seized from retail outlets inspected.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2016–17

8 During 2016–17, the Office will:

- continue its enforcement of the FCO and the COIAO,
- continue to organise publicity and public education programmes to promote public awareness of the FCO and the COIAO, and
- continue to assist the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau in implementing improvement measures arising from the review of the COIAO.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

	2014-15 (Actual) (\$m)	2015-16 (Original) (\$m)	2015-16 (Revised) (\$m)	2016-17 (Estimate) (\$m)
Programme				
Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration	41.7	45.4	45.1 (-0.7%)	46.9 (+4.0%)
				(or +3.3% on 2015-16 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2016-17 is \$1.8 million (4.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2015-16. This is mainly due to the increased provision arising from the full-year effect on filling of vacant posts in 2015-16.

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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2014-15	Approved estimate 2015-16	Revised estimate 2015-16	Estimate 2016-17	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	41,739	45,393	45,100	46,865
	Total, Recurrent	41,739	45,393	45,100	46,865
	Total, Operating Account	41,739	45,393	45,100	46,865
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	Total Expenditure	41,739	45,393	45,100	46,865

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2016–17 for the salaries and expenses for the Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (OFNAA) is \$46,865,000. This represents an increase of \$1,765,000 over the revised estimate for 2015–16 and \$5,126,000 over the actual expenditure in 2014–15.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$46,865,000 *under Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of OFNAA.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2016 will be 67 permanent posts. No change in establishment is expected 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 \$25,500,000.

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)	2016–17 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries.....	26,370	31,418	31,451	32,791
- Allowances.....	53	66	91	85
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	32	240	166	167
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	322	393	567	774
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	14,962	13,276	12,825	13,048
	41,739	45,393	45,100	46,865