

Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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

Estimate 2017–18 **\$1,971.9m**

Establishment ceiling 2017–18 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 1 240 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2017 rising by 33 posts to 1 273 posts as at 31 March 2018..... **\$785.3m**

In addition, there will be an estimated 93 directorate posts as at 31 March 2017 reducing by one post to 92 posts as at 31 March 2018.

Commitment balance..... **\$5.5m**

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

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

Detail

Programme (1): Prosecutions

	2015–16 (Actual)	2016–17 (Original)	2016–17 (Revised)	2017–18 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	613.8	900.3	612.9 (–31.9%)	855.9 (+39.6%)
				(or –4.9% on 2016–17 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 2016, 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	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Actual)	2017 (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	94.4	94.0	100
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	100
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	100

Indicators

	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Actual)	2017 (Estimate)
cases conducted by Government Counsel	3 685	3 719	3 720
cases conducted by Counsel instructed to prosecute in all courts.....	1 871	1 811	1 810
court days undertaken by Government Counsel.....	3 203	3 441	3 440
court days undertaken by Court Prosecutors in Magistrates' Court.....	9 474	8 939	8 940
court days undertaken by Counsel instructed to prosecute in the Magistrates' Court in place of Court Prosecutors	5 585	5 636	5 640
cases prepared for the Court of First Instance	503	497	500
cases prepared for the District Court	1 115	1 208	1 210
items of legal advice provided.....	13 348	13 462	13 460
appeals conducted.....	1 185	1 171	1 170

7 The conviction rates for 2015 and 2016 are:

	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Actual)
Magistrates' Court		
- defendants convicted after trial (%)	52.0	49.4
- defendants convicted after trial and defendants convicted on their own pleas (%).....	74.6	74.0
District Court		
- defendants convicted after trial (%)	70.2	72.8
- defendants convicted after trial and defendants convicted on their own pleas (%).....	93.4	94.6
Court of First Instance		
- defendants convicted after trial (%)	68.8	56.5
- defendants convicted after trial and defendants convicted on their own pleas (%).....	93.5	91.1

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 2017–18

- 8 During 2017–18, 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

	2015–16 (Actual)	2016–17 (Original)	2016–17 (Revised)	2017–18 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	606.6	1,025.9	658.3 (–35.8%)	787.5 (+19.6%)
				(or –23.2% on 2016–17 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 2016, 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	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Actual)	2017 (Plan)
taking appropriate follow-up action on civil litigation cases within seven working days upon referral by client department (%)	100	100	100	100
providing legal advice within 14 working days upon receipt of instructions/requests (%)#	92	90	91	92

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

	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Actual)	2017 (Estimate)
civil litigation cases current on 31 December	35 677	35 356	35 355
new proceedings (including non-construction arbitration and mediation) brought by the Government	1 768	1 756	1 790
new proceedings (including non-construction arbitration and mediation) brought against the Government	1 624	1 196	1 265
person days of court appearances	1 672	2 220	2 735

Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Actual)	2017 (Estimate)
items of legal advice provided	15 161	14 902	14 900
commercial tenders, consultancy briefs, contracts, licences and franchises drafted/vetted	676	656	655

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017–18

13 During 2017–18, 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, immigration matters, revenue matters, charities and trusts, contempt of court, election matters, contractual/commercial disputes, land matters, building matters, town planning matters, environmental issues, rating appeals, government rent appeals and damages claims including personal injuries;
- 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;
- legislative initiatives for the handling of non-refoulement claims made under the unified screening mechanism and other related matters;
- the regulation of companies, securities, insurance, information technology, electronic transactions, e-commerce, transportation, broadcasting and telecommunications as well as proposals for reform;
- legislative initiatives with regard to corporate insolvency law;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- proposed amendments to the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586) to phase out the ivory trade;
- development of Trade Single Window;
- 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;
- introduction of legislation to clarify the legal consequences of making an apology so as to encourage making of apologies to facilitate settlement of disputes; and
- feasibility study of establishing a Government-led Special Needs Trust.

Programme (3): Legal Policy

	2015–16 (Actual)	2016–17 (Original)	2016–17 (Revised)	2017–18 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	105.1	128.3	125.4 (–2.3%)	130.1 (+3.7%)
				(or +1.4% on 2016–17 Original)

Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Aim

14 The aim is to provide support to the Secretary for Justice in relation to the discharge of his duties; to provide advice on overall legal policy issues and, in particular, in respect of the Basic Law and human rights law in assisting the Government's formulation of policies (including those in relation to the legal system, the legal profession and dispute resolution); to provide advice on electoral law; to provide advice on the law and legal developments in the Mainland and other parts of the Cross Strait Four Regions; 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;
- providing advice on the Basic Law and assisting the promotion of knowledge in it;
- 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;
- 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), surrender of fugitives and responses to public enquiries and complaints;
- promoting bills related to the legal system, the legal profession, the law of arbitration and those effecting law reform or miscellaneous amendments to various ordinances;
- providing advice and information on the laws of the Mainland and other parts of the Cross Strait Four Regions; 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 the Cross Strait Four Regions; 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;
- providing advice to the Government on LegCo procedures and practice;
- promoting Hong Kong as a regional hub of international legal and dispute resolution services jointly with the Mediation Team of the Civil Division;
- 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 2016, the aim of the programme was generally met and the overall performance under the programme was satisfactory.

17 The key performance measures are:

Indicators

	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Actual)	2017 (Estimate)
bills promoted by the Legal Policy Division in each LegCo session.....	1	1	3
petitions (from prisoners) handled	53	96	96
items of legal advice given on:			
overall legal policy matters	1 920	2 126	2 154
Basic Law matters	1 006	1 099	1 099
human rights issues	1 150	842	842
constitutional development and election matters	1 007	1 236	900
Mainland law and related matters	302	358	350
ongoing Law Reform Commission projects	7	8	7
speeches prepared (both for LegCo and elsewhere)	126	101	101
Basic Law seminars conducted	7	11	11
briefings given in the Mainland and to Mainland delegations in Hong Kong	18	41	41

Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017–18

- 18 During 2017–18, 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;
 - 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 the Cross Strait Four Regions; 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

	2015–16 (Actual)	2016–17 (Original)	2016–17 (Revised)	2017–18 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	115.4	126.5	123.1 (–2.7%)	131.8 (+7.1%)
				(or +4.2% on 2016–17 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 a legislation database for free access through the internet.

21 In 2016, the aim of the programme was generally met and the overall performance under the programme was satisfactory.

- 22 The key performance measures are:

Indicators

	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Actual)	2017 (Estimate)
bills gazetted.....	29	13	20
subsidiary legislation gazetted	240	196	200
pages of bills/subsidiary legislation gazetted (English).....	4 214	2 496	3 000
pages of bills/subsidiary legislation gazetted (Chinese)	4 214	2 496	3 000
pages of legislation compiled for publication in the loose-leaf edition	3 368	5 424	3 000
pages of Committee Stage Amendments (CSAs) proposed by the Government (English)Δ	138	216	100
pages of CSAs proposed by the LegCo members (English)Δ.....	670	457	100
pages of CSAs proposed by the Government (Chinese)Δ	125	208	80

Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Actual)	2017 (Estimate)
pages of CSAs proposed by the LegCo members (Chinese)Δ	670	451	80
drafts of bills/subsidiary legislation released	2 582	2 186	2 400
items of legal advice provided	8 582	5 691	7 260

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 2017–18

23 During 2017–18, the Law Drafting Division will:

- continue to meet the requirements for the drafting of legislation and incidental professional service in an effective manner,
- continue to provide on-the-job training and professional development programmes relating to legislative drafting for counsel to enhance their professional capability, and
- maintain a new legislation database with legal status and continue to verify data for current legislation for migration from the loose-leaf edition of the Laws of Hong Kong to the new database.

Programme (5): International Law

	2015–16 (Actual)	2016–17 (Original)	2016–17 (Revised)	2017–18 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	68.4	59.9	60.8 (+1.5%)	66.6 (+9.5%)
				(or +11.2% on 2016–17 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;
- 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 2016, the aim of the programme was generally met and the overall performance under the programme was satisfactory.

Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

27 The key performance measures are:

Indicators

	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Actual)	2017 (Estimate)
international agreements initialled	0	3	2
briefings, negotiation and discussion (no. of working sessions).....	339	769	770
items of legal advice provided	12 828	15 090	15 100
new requests dealt with in various categories of mutual legal assistance	465	453	455
court appearances.....	122	49	50

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017–18

28 During 2017–18, 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

	2015-16 (Actual) (\$m)	2016-17 (Original) (\$m)	2016-17 (Revised) (\$m)	2017-18 (Estimate) (\$m)
Programme				
(1) Prosecutions	613.8	900.3	612.9	855.9
(2) Civil.....	606.6	1,025.9	658.3	787.5
(3) Legal Policy	105.1	128.3	125.4	130.1
(4) Law Drafting.....	115.4	126.5	123.1	131.8
(5) International Law	68.4	59.9	60.8	66.6
	1,509.3	2,240.9	1,580.5 (-29.5%)	1,971.9 (+24.8%)
				(or -12.0% on 2016-17 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2017-18 is \$243.0 million (39.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2016-17. This is mainly due to the anticipated increase in briefing-out expenses and court costs, filling of vacancies, and net creation of 13 posts to meet operational needs.

Programme (2)

Provision for 2017-18 is \$129.2 million (19.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2016-17. This is mainly due to the anticipated increase in briefing-out expenses and court costs, filling of vacancies, and net creation of seven posts to meet operational needs.

Programme (3)

Provision for 2017-18 is \$4.7 million (3.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2016-17. This is mainly due to the filling of vacancies and net creation of three posts to meet operational needs.

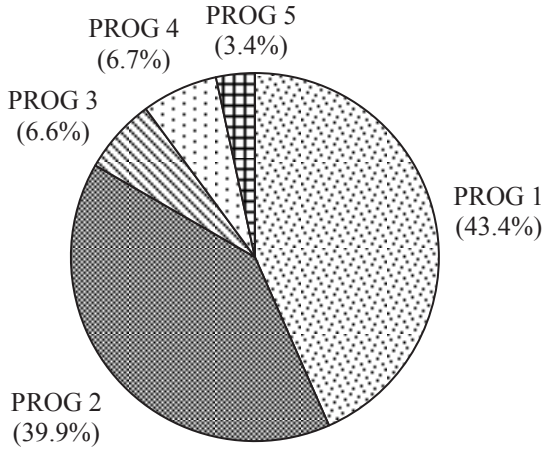
Programme (4)

Provision for 2017-18 is \$8.7 million (7.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 2016-17. This is mainly due to the anticipated increase in general departmental expenses, filling of vacancies, and creation of seven posts to meet operational needs.

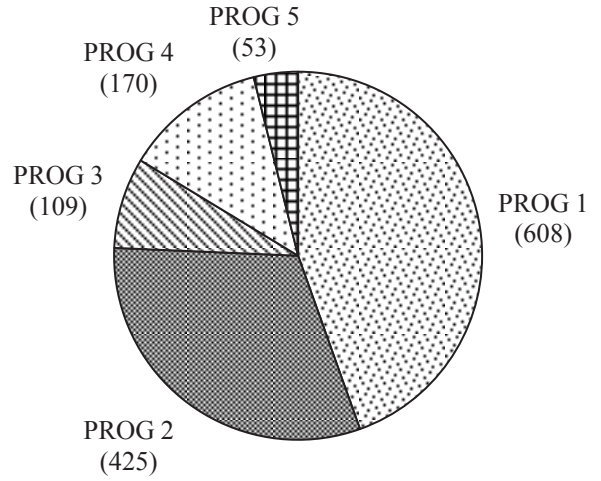
Programme (5)

Provision for 2017-18 is \$5.8 million (9.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2016-17. This is mainly due to the filling of vacancies and creation of two posts to meet operational needs.

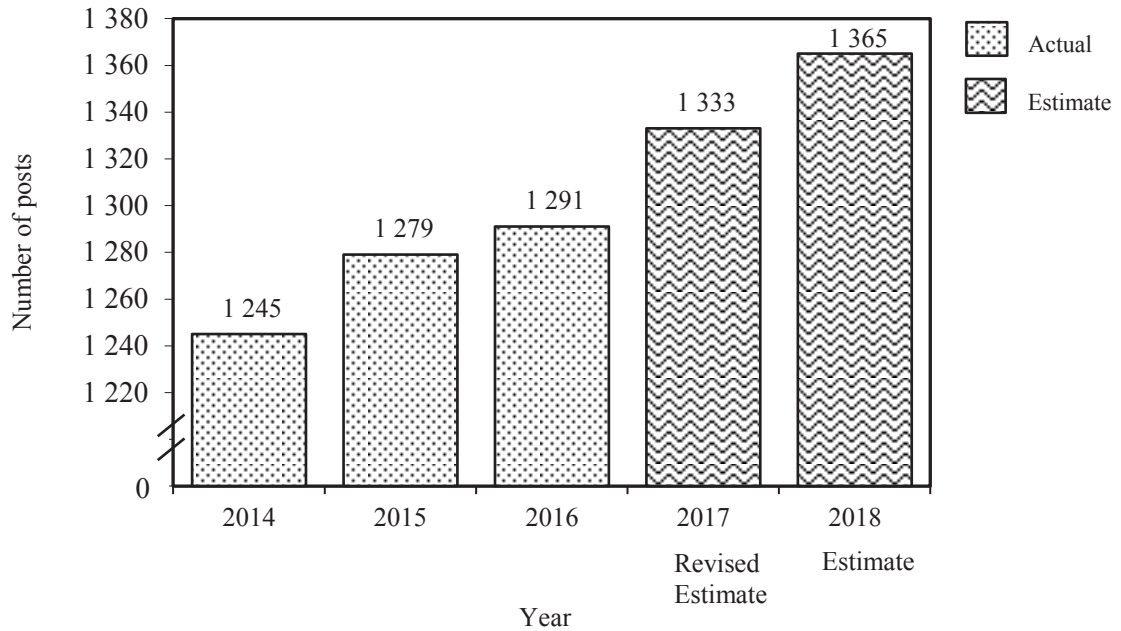
Allocation of provision to programmes (2017-18)



Staff by programme (as at 31 March 2018)



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



Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Sub-head (Code)		Actual expenditure 2015-16	Approved estimate 2016-17	Revised estimate 2016-17	Estimate 2017-18
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	1,322,835	1,645,059	1,371,725	1,642,070
234	Court costs	186,216	595,150	208,060	329,120
	Total, Recurrent.....	<u>1,509,051</u>	<u>2,240,209</u>	<u>1,579,785</u>	<u>1,971,190</u>
Non-Recurrent					
700	General non-recurrent	207	678	736	736
	Total, Non-Recurrent.....	<u>207</u>	<u>678</u>	<u>736</u>	<u>736</u>
	Total, Operating Account	<u>1,509,258</u>	<u>2,240,887</u>	<u>1,580,521</u>	<u>1,971,926</u>
	Total Expenditure	<u><u>1,509,258</u></u>	<u><u>2,240,887</u></u>	<u><u>1,580,521</u></u>	<u><u>1,971,926</u></u>

Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2017–18 for the salaries and expenses of the Department of Justice is \$1,971,926,000. This represents an increase of \$391,405,000 over the revised estimate for 2016–17 and \$462,668,000 over the actual expenditure in 2015–16.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$1,642,070,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Department of Justice. This includes provision of \$229,600 for a non-accountable entertainment allowance for the Secretary for Justice. The increase of \$270,345,000 (19.7%) over the revised estimate for *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* for 2016–17 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 2017 will be 1 333 posts including four supernumerary posts. It is expected that there will be a net increase of 32 posts in 2017–18. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2017–18 but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$785,251,000.

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

	2015–16 (Actual) (\$'000)	2016–17 (Original) (\$'000)	2016–17 (Revised) (\$'000)	2017–18 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries.....	795,414	848,407	849,782	886,517
- Allowances.....	19,485	26,448	19,835	21,152
- Job-related allowances.....	—	6	6	6
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	2,397	2,823	2,729	3,434
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	30,691	36,821	37,094	44,759
Departmental Expenses				
- Remuneration for special appointments	3,938	3,950	3,950	3,950
- General departmental expenses	147,938	159,474	161,099	180,592
Other Charges				
- Hire of legal services and related professional fees	231,225	325,630	232,890	398,360
- Legal services and other related costs for arbitration proceedings under the Pilot Scheme for Arbitration on Land Premium.....	819	91,500	2,500	—
- Legal services for construction dispute resolution	90,928	150,000	61,840	103,300
	1,322,835	1,645,059	1,371,725	1,642,070

5 Provision of \$329,120,000 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 \$121,060,000 (58.2%) over the revised estimate for 2016–17. 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 31.3.2016	Revised estimated expenditure for 2016–17	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Operating Account</i>						
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	166	305
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	2,336	370	1,629
		Total	<u>20,435</u>	<u>14,220</u>	<u>736</u>	<u>5,479</u>