

Head 163 — REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE

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

Estimate 2017–18 **\$554.2m**

Establishment ceiling 2017–18 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 263 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2017 reducing by seven posts to 256 posts as at 31 March 2018 **\$125.4m**

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

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

	2015–16 (Actual)	2016–17 (Original)	2016–17 (Revised)	2017–18 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	479.9	1,114.3	918.7 (–17.6%)	554.2 (–39.7%)
				(or –50.3% on 2016–17 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to provide the Electoral Affairs Commission with administrative support for the effective discharge of its statutory functions under the Electoral Affairs Commission Ordinance (Cap. 541) to ensure that elections are conducted openly, honestly and fairly.

Brief Description

3 The Registration and Electoral Office (REO), under the direction of the Electoral Affairs Commission, implements 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 2016–17, the REO provided the Electoral Affairs Commission with administrative support to accomplish a number of major tasks, including:

- the conduct of a voter registration exercise;
- the publication of registers of electors for geographical constituencies, functional constituencies and Election Committee subsectors;
- the enhancement of checking of electors in the current register in respect of their registered addresses;
- the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on electors' registration particulars;
- publicity measures to remind electors to update their addresses with REO;
- the review and amendment of subsidiary legislation on electoral arrangements for elections;
- the issuing of guidelines for the conduct of the 2016 Legislative Council general election, the 2016 Election Committee subsector ordinary elections and the 2017 Chief Executive election;
- the conduct and supervision of the 2016 Legislative Council general election, the 2016 Election Committee subsector ordinary elections and the 2017 Chief Executive election;
- the supervision of the conduct of Rural by-elections;

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- the submission of reports to the Chief Executive on the 2016 Legislative Council general election, one Legislative Council by-election and two Rural by-elections; and
- the registration of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers for use in the Legislative Council and District Council elections.

5 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Actual)	2017 (Plan)
to conduct annual exercise for			
voter registration	1	1	1
updating records of the registered electors	1	1	1
to organise			
District Council ordinary election	1	—	—
District Council by-election	1	—	—†
Legislative Council general election	—	1	—
Legislative Council by-election	—	1	—†
Election Committee subsector ordinary elections	—	1	—
Chief Executive election	—	—	1
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	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 delineation of geographical constituencies for the			
2016 Legislative Council general election	on 28 Aug	—	—
to submit to the Chief Executive a report on matters			
relating to			
the 2015 Rural ordinary election	on 24 Apr	—	—
the Rural by-elections	on 11 Sep	on 3 Mar & 26 Aug	on or before 24 Feb & 28 Jul
by-election of the Tai Po District Council			
San Fu Constituency	on 15 Oct	—	—
the 2015 District Council ordinary election	—	on 22 Feb	—
by-election of the Legislative Council			
New Territories East Geographical Constituency	—	on 27 May	—
the 2016 Legislative Council general election	—	on 2 Dec	—
the 2016 Election Committee subsector ordinary			
elections and the 2017 Chief Executive election	—	—	on or before 23 Jun

† By-elections will be conducted as and when necessary.

^ Five days for the Election Committee subsector elections.

Indicators

	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Actual)	2017 (Estimate)
no. of new electors registered#	267 886	212 098	80 000
no. of elector records updated@	421 712	261 925	146 000

Figure appeared or expected to appear in the Final Registers of the relevant year. It excludes the number of new electors registered for the District Council (second) functional constituency as they are mostly registered in the geographical constituencies at the same time.

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

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2017–18

6 During 2017–18, the REO will continue to provide the Electoral Affairs Commission with administrative support in connection with its work, which includes:

- the conduct of a voter registration exercise, including updating the registers of electors and the related publicity measures to encourage eligible persons (including young persons in particular) to register as electors;
- the conduct of checks on electors in the current register in respect of their registered particulars, including cross-matching exercise with other government departments;
- the review of overall electoral arrangements with a view to providing better services to electors and candidates in future elections;
- the making of subsidiary legislation on electoral arrangements for elections as necessary;
- the supervision of the conduct of Rural by-elections;
- the conduct and supervision of the Legislative Council and District Council by-elections, if any;
- the submission of reports to the Chief Executive on the 2017 Chief Executive election (including the 2016 Election Committee subsector ordinary elections) and other by-elections; and
- the registration of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers for use in the Legislative Council and District Council elections.

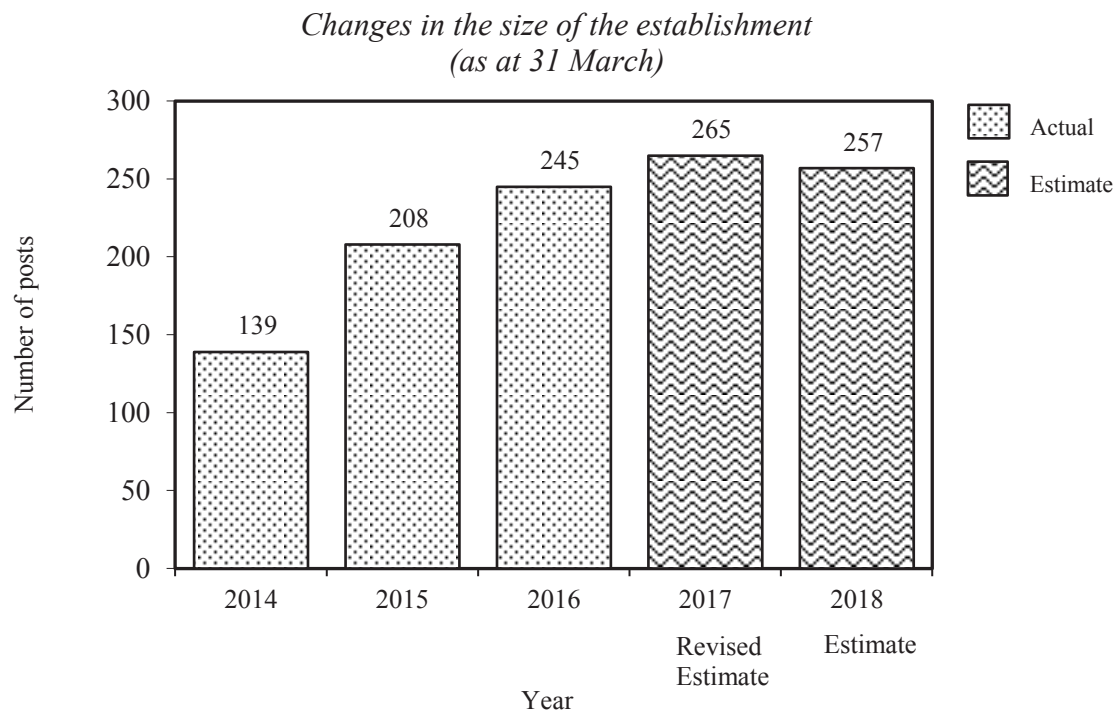
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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

	2015–16 (Actual) (\$m)	2016–17 (Original) (\$m)	2016–17 (Revised) (\$m)	2017–18 (Estimate) (\$m)
Programme				
Electoral Services.....	479.9	1,114.3	918.7 (–17.6%)	554.2 (–39.7%)
				(or –50.3% on 2016–17 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2017–18 is \$364.5 million (39.7%) lower than the revised estimate for 2016–17. This is mainly due to the reduction in requirements upon completion of the 2016 Legislative Council general election and the 2016 Election Committee subsector ordinary elections, partly offset by the increased requirements for the conduct of the 2017 Chief Executive election and the provision reserved for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections. There will also be a net decrease of eight posts in 2017–18.



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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	479,939	1,113,685	918,124	554,159
Total, Recurrent.....	479,939	1,113,685	918,124	554,159
Total, Operating Account	479,939	1,113,685	918,124	554,159
Capital Account				
Plant, Equipment and Works				
Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	—	600	536	—
Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	—	600	536	—
Total, Capital Account.....	—	600	536	—
Total Expenditure	479,939	1,114,285	918,660	554,159

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2017–18 for the salaries and expenses of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) is \$554,159,000. This represents a decrease of \$364,501,000 against the revised estimate for 2016–17 and an increase of \$74,220,000 over the actual expenditure in 2015–16.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$554,159,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the REO. The decrease of \$363,965,000 (39.6%) against the revised estimate for 2016–17 is mainly due to the reduction in requirements upon completion of the 2016 Legislative Council general election and the 2016 Election Committee subsector ordinary elections, partly offset by the increased requirements for the conduct of the 2017 Chief Executive election and the provision reserved for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2017 will be 265 posts including one supernumerary post. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of eight 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 \$125,390,000.

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.....	99,921	120,126	118,708	84,918
- Allowances.....	3,307	3,386	2,937	1,156
- Job-related allowances.....	—	—	123	136
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	414	256	416	445
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	3,900	6,404	5,588	4,217
Departmental Expenses				
- Honoraria for members of committees	480	480	480	480
- General departmental expenses	16,691	19,646	18,393	25,497
Other Charges				
- Election expenses.....	355,226	963,387	771,479	437,310
	<u>479,939</u>	<u>1,113,685</u>	<u>918,124</u>	<u>554,159</u>