

Head 163 — REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE

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

Estimate 2022–23 **\$1,205.3m**

Establishment ceiling 2022–23 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 310 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2022 reducing by two posts to 308 posts as at 31 March 2023 **\$188.1m**

In addition, there will be an estimated two directorate posts as at 31 March 2022 and as at 31 March 2023.

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

	2020–21 (Actual)	2021–22 (Original)	2021–22 (Revised)	2022–23 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	730.7	2,492.5	1,530.9 (–38.6%)	1,205.3 (–21.3%)
				(or –51.6% on 2021–22 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 2021–22, 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 conduct of checks on 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 the REO with provision of address proofs as appropriate;
- the review of subsidiary legislation on voter registration and electoral arrangements;
- the publication of an interim register and a final register of members of the Election Committee;
- the conduct of special voter registration arrangement between 1 June and 5 July 2021 to allow individuals and bodies whose eligibility was affected and those newly eligible under the Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendments) Ordinance 2021 to handle their voter registration matters;
- the updating and issue of guidelines for the conduct of the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections, the 2021 Legislative Council General Election, and the 2022 Chief Executive Election;

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- the conduct and supervision of the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections, the 2021 Legislative Council General Election and the 2022 Chief Executive Election;
 - the submission of the report to the Chief Executive on the 2021 Legislative Council General Election;
 - the updating of guidelines for the conduct of the 2023 Rural Ordinary Election; and
 - the registration of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers for use in the Legislative Council election.
- 5 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Plan)
to conduct annual exercise for			
voter registration	1	1	1
updating records of the registered electors	1	1	1
to organise			
District Council by-election	—	—	— [‡]
Legislative Council General Election	—	1	—
Legislative Council by-election	—	—	— [‡]
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
to respond to telephone enquiries on election arrangements			
on polling days within two minutes (%).....	—	100	100
to complete initial processing of an elector registration or			
updating of an elector record within 14 days (%)	99.9	100	100
to complete initial processing actions on election-related			
complaints within five working days (%).....	100	100	100
to submit to the Chief Executive a report on matters			
relating to			
the Rural by-elections	on 10 Feb	—	on or before 9 Sep
the 2019 District Council Ordinary Election	on 24 Feb	—	—
the 2020 Legislative Council General			
Election (discontinued).....	on 9 Oct	—	—
the 2021 Legislative Council General Election	—	—	on or before 18 Mar
the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary			
Elections and the 2022 Chief Executive Election	—	—	on or before 24 Jun

[‡] By-elections will be conducted as and when necessary.

[^] Five days for the Election Committee Subsector elections.

Indicators

	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Estimate)
no. of new electors registered#.....	464 796	98 211	53 000
no. of elector records updated#	1 080 375	715 610	775 000

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

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022–23

6 During 2022–23, 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 to register as electors and to remind members of the public of the requirement of submitting address proof for both applications for change of registered addresses and new registrations as electors;
- the conduct of checks on electors in the current registers in respect of their registered particulars, including cross-matching exercise with other government departments;

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- the introduction of enhancement measures for inspection and compilation of the registers of electors effective from May 2022, including partially redacting all electors' particulars on the registers of electors, limiting inspection to the press, candidates and political parties only and extending the address proof requirement to all new voter registration applications;
- the review of overall electoral arrangements with a view to making improvements in future elections;
- the making of subsidiary legislation on voter registration and electoral arrangements as necessary;
- the supervision of the conduct of one Rural by-election and the 2023 Rural Ordinary Election;
- 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 2022 Chief Executive Election (including the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections), one Rural by-election and other by-elections, if any;
- the updating and issue of guidelines for the conduct of the 2023 Rural Ordinary Election;
- the preparation of the 2023 District Council Ordinary Election; and
- the registration of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers for use in the Legislative Council and District Council elections.

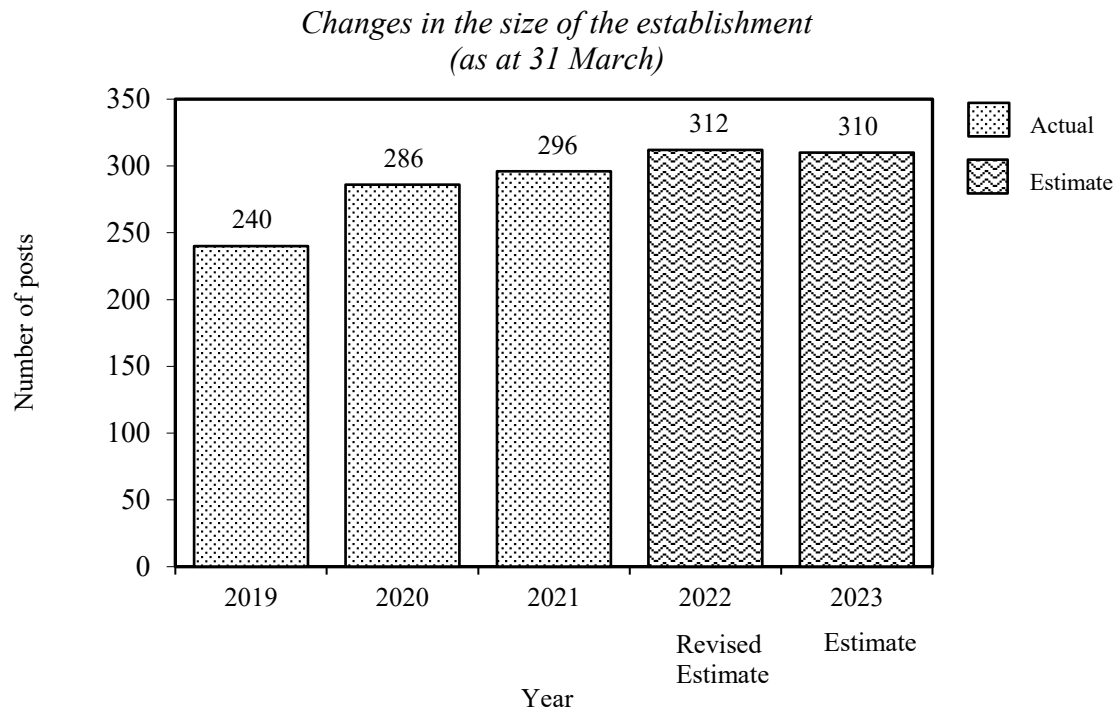
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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2020–21 (Actual) (\$m)	2021–22 (Original) (\$m)	2021–22 (Revised) (\$m)	2022–23 (Estimate) (\$m)
Electoral Services	730.7	2,492.5	1,530.9 (–38.6%)	1,205.3 (–21.3%)
				(or –51.6% on 2021–22 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2022–23 is \$325.6 million (21.3%) lower than the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to the reduction in requirements upon completion of the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections and the 2021 Legislative Council General Election, partly offset by the increased requirements for the conduct of the 2022 Chief Executive Election, the preparation of the 2023 District Council Ordinary Election as well as the provision reserved for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections. There will also be a net decrease of two posts in 2022–23.



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2020–21	Approved estimate 2021–22	Revised estimate 2021–22	Estimate 2022–23
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Operating Account				
Recurrent				
000 Operational expenses	730,665	2,492,456	1,530,901	1,205,329
Total, Recurrent.....	730,665	2,492,456	1,530,901	1,205,329
Total, Operating Account	730,665	2,492,456	1,530,901	1,205,329
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Total Expenditure	730,665	2,492,456	1,530,901	1,205,329
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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2022–23 for the salaries and expenses of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) is \$1,205,329,000. This represents a decrease of \$325,572,000 against the revised estimate for 2021–22 and an increase of \$474,664,000 over the actual expenditure in 2020–21.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$1,205,329,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the REO. The decrease of \$325,572,000 (21.3%) against the revised estimate for 2021–22 is mainly due to the reduction in requirements upon completion of the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections and the 2021 Legislative Council General Election, partly offset by the increased requirements for the conduct of the 2022 Chief Executive Election, the preparation of the 2023 District Council Ordinary Election as well as the provision reserved for the preparation and conduct of any possible by-elections.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2022 will be 312 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of two posts in 2022–23. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2022–23, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$188,071,000.

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

	2020–21 (Actual) (\$'000)	2021–22 (Original) (\$'000)	2021–22 (Revised) (\$'000)	2022–23 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	145,717	175,564	161,306	147,196
- Allowances	6,660	6,176	8,759	6,100
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	856	764	845	303
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	9,014	13,054	10,755	12,121
Departmental Expenses				
- Honoraria for members of committees	480	480	480	480
- General departmental expenses	36,364	36,111	45,321	58,409
Other Charges				
- Election expenses	531,574	2,260,307	1,303,435	980,720
	<u>730,665</u>	<u>2,492,456</u>	<u>1,530,901</u>	<u>1,205,329</u>