

Head 47 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

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

Estimate 2023–24 **\$1,809.8m**

Establishment ceiling 2023–24 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 709 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2023 rising by 26 posts to 735 posts as at 31 March 2024..... **\$519.1m**

In addition, there will be an estimated 15 directorate posts as at 31 March 2023 and as at 31 March 2024.

Commitment balance..... **\$751.8m**

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

**Programme (1) Use of Information
Technology (IT) in
Government**

These programmes contribute to Policy Area 17: Information Technology and Broadcasting (Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry).

**Programme (2) IT Infrastructure and
Standards**

Programme (3) IT in the Community

Detail

Programme (1): Use of IT in Government

	2021–22 (Actual)	2022–23 (Original)	2022–23 (Revised)	2023–24 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	816.2	1,037.8	1,031.2 (–0.6%)	960.1 (–6.9%)
				(or –7.5% on 2022–23 Original)

Aim

2 The aim of this programme is to provide government bureaux and departments with the information and services they need in an efficient, convenient, secure and environmentally-friendly manner by suitable adoption of information and communications technology (ICT), and to support bureaux and departments to make the best use of ICT to achieve their policy objectives. Government policy initiatives, internal efficiency, transparency and public engagement should also be enabled by innovative use of ICT.

Brief Description

3 The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) delivers and enhances the Government's online one-stop service portal, and manages relationships with portal users. It provides a range of IT professional services and facilitation measures to bureaux and departments, sets policies on IT standards, and develops and operates shared infrastructure and central services that take into account industry and technology developments. It establishes policies and practices on governance and cybersecurity, invests in IT, supports the IT initiatives of bureaux and departments, and enables them to assure the quality of their IT strategies, projects and operations. It also develops and motivates members of the government IT profession.

4 In 2022–23, OGCI0:

- continued to collaborate with other bureaux and departments, particularly the Health Bureau and the Department of Health, to support and facilitate various anti-epidemic related initiatives with technology, including the latest isolation and quarantine arrangements, the “LeaveHomeSafe” and the “QR Code Verification Scanner” mobile applications for the “Vaccine Pass” and “Red/Amber Code” arrangements, various booking systems for community vaccination programmes, health code system for cross boundary travel with Guangdong Province and Macao, and dissemination of electronic consumption vouchers;
- launched a shared blockchain platform to facilitate implementation of e-government services using blockchain technology;
- continued to provide technical advice and support to bureaux and departments in implementing big data analytics and blockchain applications;

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- commenced implementation of a consented data exchange gateway to support exchange of personal data, so as to facilitate the implementation of e-government services and to interface with the Commercial Data Interchange of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA);
 - commenced an e-government audit for bureaux and departments to identify areas of improvements and recommend digital government initiatives for the convenience of the public;
 - continued to promote and assist government departments in sourcing innovative IT solutions including robotics technologies, 5G technology and Internet of Things (IoT) applications to meet their business needs and enhance public services through the Smart Government Innovation Lab;
 - oversaw the completion of the construction of the government data centre complex;
 - continued the promotion of information security awareness in the Government and the monitoring of the compliance of bureaux and departments with the Government's information security requirements;
 - completed the first stage of implementation and commenced the rollout of an electronic recordkeeping system to bureaux and departments in collaboration with the Government Records Service and the Efficiency Office; and
 - collaborated with the government of Guangdong Province to promote smart city development in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) through exploring the use of “iAM Smart” as one of the means for real name identity authentication on the “Unified Identity Authentication Platform of Guangdong Province”.
- 5 The key performance measures in respect of use of IT in the Government are:

Target

	Target	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Plan)
services rendered meeting requirements set out in service level documents agreed with users (%).....	100	100	100	100

Indicators

	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Estimate)
no. of bureaux and departments with IT plans in place	67	67	67
results of post-implementation departmental returns on completed IT projects			
completed on schedule (%).....	74.2	74.9	75.0
completed within budget (%).....	100	100	100
meeting agreed specifications (%)	99.2	99.2	100
achieving intended benefits (%).....	99.6	99.6	99.0
	2021–22 (Actual)	2022–23 (Revised Estimate)	2023–24 (Estimate)
total value of work undertaken in the year (\$m)	2,345.1	2,790.9	3,851.4
total value of work outsourced in the year (\$m)	2,168.0	2,624.9	3,466.3

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023–24

- 6 During 2023–24, OGCIO will:
- continue to provide technical advice and support to bureaux and departments in implementing big data analytics and blockchain applications;
 - continue to implement the consented data exchange gateway to support exchange of personal data, so as to facilitate the implementation of e-government services and to interface with the Commercial Data Interchange of the HKMA;
 - complete the e-government audit for bureaux and departments to identify areas of improvements and recommend digital government initiatives for the convenience of the public, and facilitate bureaux and departments to implement the recommended digital government initiatives;
 - continue to promote and assist government departments in sourcing innovative IT solutions including artificial intelligence, spatial data analytics, robotics technologies and IoT applications to meet their business needs and enhance public services through the Smart Government Innovation Lab;

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- complete installation of all IT systems, networks and equipment of the government data centre complex and commence its operations;
- review and update the government information security policies and guidelines to keep pace with technology development, industry best practices and Government's information security requirements;
- complete all stages of implementation and continue the rollout of an electronic recordkeeping system to bureaux and departments in collaboration with the Government Records Service and the Efficiency Office; and
- collaborate with the government of Guangdong Province to promote smart city development in the GBA through various initiatives, including exploring the use of “*iAM Smart*” as one of the means for real name identity authentication on the “*Unified Identity Authentication Platform of Guangdong Province*”.

Programme (2): IT Infrastructure and Standards

	2021–22 (Actual)	2022–23 (Original)	2022–23 (Revised)	2023–24 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	298.5	582.5	367.0 (–37.0%)	609.7 (+66.1%)
				(or +4.7% on 2022–23 Original)

Aim

7 The aim of this programme is to provide Hong Kong with the IT infrastructure, standards, legal framework and talent needed to facilitate a vibrant digital economy and to enable core industries to improve their competitive position.

Brief Description

8 OGCIO supports the development of community-wide IT infrastructure and facilitates the development of IT human capital to strengthen Hong Kong's position as a smart city. It seeks to develop a digital infrastructure through which the community can interact readily and securely, and to promote the use of electronic means for economic, social and government activities. It also seeks to introduce common standards which apply to both the public and private sectors.

9 In 2022–23, OGCIO:

- continued the operation and promotion of the “*iAM Smart*” Platform;
- continued the implementation of the Knowing More About IT Programme, the IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools Programme and the Enriched IT Programme in Secondary Schools;
- continued the implementation of the Multi-functional Smart Lampposts pilot scheme;
- supported the co-ordination and monitoring of smart city initiatives under the *Smart City Blueprint for Hong Kong* (Blueprint) and the ongoing update of the Blueprint; and
- continued to promote public awareness of cyber security including facilitating information sharing of cyber threats.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023–24

10 During 2023–24, OGCIO will:

- commence the enhancement of “*iAM Smart*” to realise “single portal for online government services” and support bureaux and departments to provide citizens with one-stop digitalised services by adopting “*iAM Smart*”;
- continue to implement the Knowing More About IT Programme and the IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools Programme;
- complete the implementation of the Multi-functional Smart Lampposts pilot scheme;
- continue to support the co-ordination and monitoring of smart city initiatives under the Blueprint and preparation of the Blueprint 3.0; and
- continue to promote public awareness of cyber security including facilitating information sharing of cyber threats.

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Programme (3): IT in the Community

	2021–22 (Actual)	2022–23 (Original)	2022–23 (Revised)	2023–24 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	93.8	96.0	97.0 (+1.0%)	240.0 (+147.4%)
				(or +150.0% on 2022–23 Original)

Aim

11 The aim of this programme is to strengthen the role of Hong Kong's business establishments in the local, Mainland and global markets for ICT and digital content services. The programme also aims to enable residents, businesses and voluntary organisations to utilise and share information and knowledge in promoting sustainable development and improving the quality of life.

Brief Description

12 OGCIO promotes and facilitates the wider use of IT in the business sector and the community, and contributes to building a digitally inclusive society in Hong Kong. It collaborates with industry support organisations and trade associations to support the IT industry, including exploration of business opportunities locally, in the Mainland and overseas.

13 In 2022–23 OGCIO:

- continued to work with bureaux and departments and related organisations to open up more data in machine-readable format for free use by the public and published the fifth annual open data plans;
- continued to provide one-stop support service to facilitate the setting up of data centres in Hong Kong and to encourage the use of existing industrial buildings and industrial lots for data centres;
- continued to implement the Elderly Outreach and Training Programmes to promote ICT adoption among the elderly and organised the Smart Elderly Recognition Scheme;
- continued to promote web/mobile app accessibility in public and private organisations, and monitored the compliance of government websites and mobile apps;
- organised the Hong Kong ICT Awards 2022 to enhance Hong Kong's profile as a leading ICT hub in the region;
- organised and supported local ICT delegations to take part in China International Software Expo 2022 and Asia Pacific ICT Alliance Awards 2022;
- organised the “Maker in China” SME Innovation and Entrepreneurship Global Contest 2022 – Hong Kong Chapter to connect local small and medium-sized technology enterprises with investors and business networks in the Mainland to explore business opportunities; and
- worked with relevant Mainland authorities to explore facilitation measures on cross-boundary data flow from the Mainland to Hong Kong.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023–24

14 During 2023–24, OGCIO will:

- continue to work with bureaux and departments and related organisations to open up more data in machine-readable format for free use by the public and update their open data plans;
- continue to provide one-stop support service to facilitate data centre development in Hong Kong and explore with Development Bureau on the use of caverns for data centre development;
- continue to promote ICT adoption among the elderly through the Elderly Outreach and Training Programmes;
- continue to promote web/mobile app accessibility in public and private organisations, and conduct the compliance audit on accessibility of government websites and mobile apps;
- organise the Hong Kong ICT Awards 2023 and Digital Economy Summit 2023;
- continue to support local ICT industry to take part in international competitions and major ICT collaboration activities with the Mainland;
- continue to organise the “Maker in China” SME Innovation and Entrepreneurship Global Contest – Hong Kong Chapter;

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- continue to work with relevant Mainland authorities to explore facilitation measures on cross-boundary data flow and to launch a pilot project in the GBA; and
- support Cyberport to expedite the Web3 ecosystem development in Hong Kong.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2021–22 (Actual) (\$m)	2022–23 (Original) (\$m)	2022–23 (Revised) (\$m)	2023–24 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Use of IT in Government.....	816.2	1,037.8	1,031.2	960.1
(2) IT Infrastructure and Standards	298.5	582.5	367.0	609.7
(3) IT in the Community	93.8	96.0	97.0	240.0
	1,208.5	1,716.3	1,495.2 (–12.9%)	1,809.8 (+21.0%)
				(or +5.4% on 2022–23 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2023–24 is \$71.1 million (6.9%) lower than the revised estimate for 2022–23. This is mainly due to the decreased provision for departmental expenses, partly offset by the increased requirement for personal emoluments. There will be a net increase of 26 posts in 2023–24.

Programme (2)

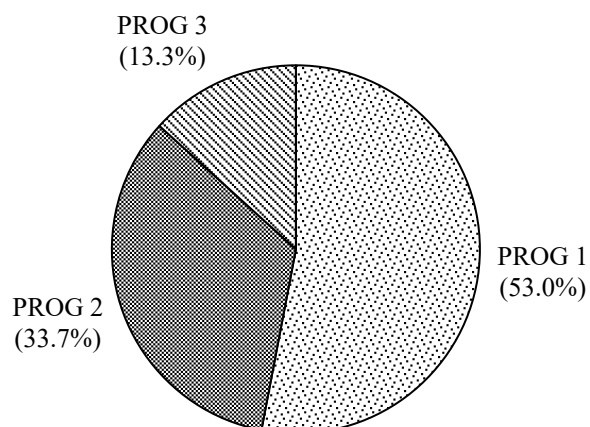
Provision for 2023–24 is \$242.7 million (66.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 2022–23. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for the non-recurrent item of Enriched IT Programme in Schools and provision for departmental expenses, partly offset by the decreased requirement for personal emoluments. There will be a net decrease of two posts in 2023–24.

Programme (3)

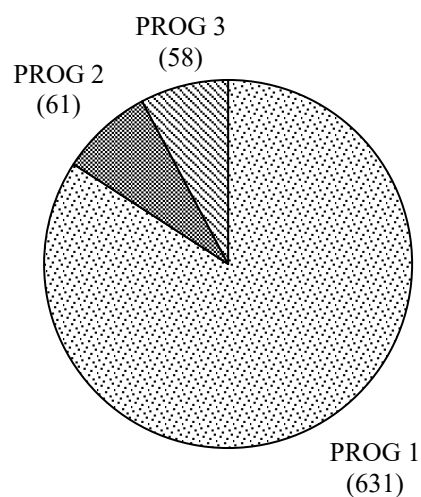
Provision for 2023–24 is \$143.0 million (147.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2022–23. This is mainly due to the increased provision for departmental expenses and personal emoluments as well as additional cash flow requirement for the non-recurrent item of Expediting the Web3 ecosystem development in Hong Kong. There will be an increase of two posts in 2023–24.

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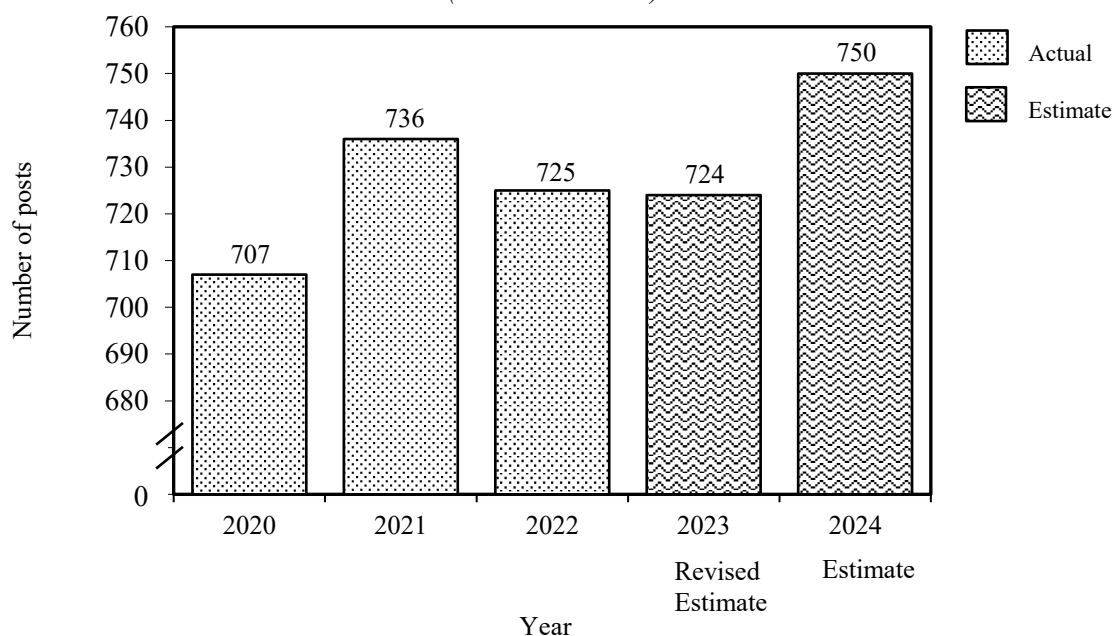
*Allocation of provision
to programmes
(2023-24)*



*Staff by programme
(as at 31 March 2024)*



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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2021–22	Approved estimate 2022–23	Revised estimate 2022–23	Estimate 2023–24
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Operating Account				
Recurrent				
000 Operational expenses	1,070,782	1,305,321	1,295,321	1,357,294
Total, Recurrent.....	1,070,782	1,305,321	1,295,321	1,357,294
Non-Recurrent				
700 General non-recurrent	133,849	410,946	199,862	452,530
Total, Non-Recurrent.....	133,849	410,946	199,862	452,530
Total, Operating Account	1,204,631	1,716,267	1,495,183	1,809,824
Capital Account				
Plant, Equipment and Works				
Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	3,875	—	—	—
Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	3,875	—	—	—
Total, Capital Account.....	3,875	—	—	—
Total Expenditure	1,208,506	1,716,267	1,495,183	1,809,824

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2023–24 for the salaries and expenses of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) is \$1,809,824,000. This represents an increase of \$314,641,000 over the revised estimate for 2022–23 and \$601,318,000 over the actual expenditure in 2021–22.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$1,357,294,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of OGCIO.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2023 will be 724 posts. It is expected that there will be a net increase of 26 posts in 2023–24. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2023–24, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$519,066,000.

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

	2021–22 (Actual) (\$'000)	2022–23 (Original) (\$'000)	2022–23 (Revised) (\$'000)	2023–24 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	478,618	488,710	495,938	525,274
- Allowances	12,369	11,400	11,450	11,450
- Job-related allowances.....	90	100	270	100
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	1,572	1,107	1,255	1,048
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	20,143	24,006	23,825	30,626
Departmental Expenses				
- Hire of services and professional fees	404,696	472,278	600,674	505,368
- Information and communications technology rentals and maintenance	53,465	68,800	48,156	62,110
- General departmental expenses	38,596	137,820	47,927	184,239
Other Charges				
- Hosting platform for e-government services	61,233	101,100	65,826	37,079
	<u>1,070,782</u>	<u>1,305,321</u>	<u>1,295,321</u>	<u>1,357,294</u>

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Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2022	Revised estimated expenditure for 2022–23	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Operating Account</i>						
700		<i>General non-recurrent</i>				
	801	Providing Public Wi-Fi services in Study Rooms and Youth Service Centres	25,300	12,201	3,200	9,899
	802	Expediting the Web3 ecosystem development in Hong Kong#.....	50,000#	—	—	50,000
	894	Enriched IT Programme in Schools¶	1,100,000¶	211,431	196,662	691,907
		Total	1,175,300	223,632	199,862	751,806

This is a new item, funding for which is sought in the content of the Appropriation Bill 2023.

¶ The approved commitment for the item was \$800 million. An increase in commitment of \$300 million is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2023.