

Head 163 — REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE

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

Estimate 2023–24 **\$1,415.5m**

Establishment ceiling 2023–24 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 308 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2023 reducing by eight posts to 300 posts as at 31 March 2024..... **\$178.9m**

In addition, there will be an estimated two directorate posts as at 31 March 2023 rising by two posts to four posts as at 31 March 2024.

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

	2021–22 (Actual)	2022–23 (Original)	2022–23 (Revised)	2023–24 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	1,294.8	1,205.3	837.8 (–30.5%)	1,415.5 (+69.0%)
				(or +17.4% on 2022–23 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, voters and ex-officio members of the Election Committee; and
- the conduct and supervision of elections.

4 During 2022–23, 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/voters 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/registration eligibilities;
- 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;
- the review of subsidiary legislation on voter registration and electoral arrangements;
- the updating of the final register of members of the Election Committee;
- the updating and issue of guidelines/supplementary information for the conduct of elections, such as the 2022 Chief Executive Election and the 2022 Legislative Council Election Committee Constituency By-election;
- the conduct and supervision of the 2022 Chief Executive Election and the 2022 Legislative Council Election Committee Constituency By-election;

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- the submission of the reports to the Chief Executive on the 2022 Chief Executive Election (including the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections) and the 2022 Legislative Council Election Committee Constituency By-election;
 - the updating and issue of guidelines for the conduct of the 2023 Rural Ordinary Election;
 - the supervision of the conduct of the 2023 Rural Ordinary Election; and
 - the annual registration of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers.
- 5 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)	2023 (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 ^α
District Council by-election	—	—	— [‡]
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 initial 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 to the Chief Executive a report on matters			
relating to			
the 2021 Legislative Council General Election	—	18 Mar	—
the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary			
Elections and the 2022 Chief Executive Election	—	5 Aug	—
the 2022 Legislative Council Election Committee			
Constituency By-election	—	—	on or before 17 Mar
the 2023 Rural Ordinary Election	—	—	on or before 14 Apr

^α Subject to the outcome of the review on district administration.

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

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

Indicators

	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Estimate)
no. of new electors registered#.....	98 211	36 682	35 870
no. of elector records updated#	715 610	783 213	703 860

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

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023–24

6 During 2023–24, 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/voters 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;
- the relevant implementation work pursuant to the outcome of the review on district administration;

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- the review of electoral arrangements with a view to further enhancing the use of information technology and introducing more efficient and user-friendly measures in various stages of future elections;
- the updating and issue of guidelines for the conduct of elections;
- the conduct and supervision of by-elections, if any;
- the submission of reports to the Chief Executive on the conduct of elections, including by-elections, if any; and
- the annual registration of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers.

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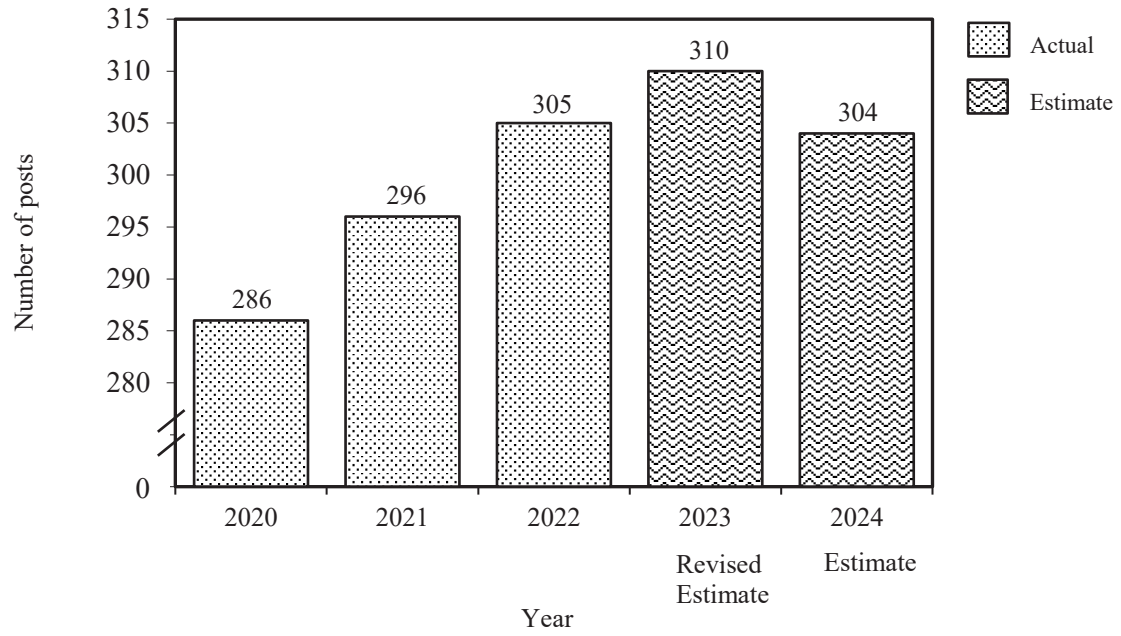
ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2021–22 (Actual) (\$m)	2022–23 (Original) (\$m)	2022–23 (Revised) (\$m)	2023–24 (Estimate) (\$m)
Electoral Services	1,294.8	1,205.3	837.8 (–30.5%)	1,415.5 (+69.0%)
				(or +17.4% on 2022–23 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2023–24 is \$577.7 million (69.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2022–23. This is mainly due to the increased requirements for election expenses. There will also be a net decrease of six posts in 2023–24.

*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	1,294,750	1,205,329	837,428	1,415,496
	Total, Recurrent.....	1,294,750	1,205,329	837,428	1,415,496
	Total, Operating Account	1,294,750	1,205,329	837,428	1,415,496
Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	—	—	400	—
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	—	—	400	—
	Total, Capital Account.....	—	—	400	—
	Total Expenditure	1,294,750	1,205,329	837,828	1,415,496

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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 Registration and Electoral Office (REO) is \$1,415,496,000. This represents an increase of \$577,668,000 over the revised estimate for 2022–23 and \$120,746,000 over the actual expenditure in 2021–22.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$1,415,496,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the REO. The increase of \$578,068,000 (69.0%) over the revised estimate for 2022–23 is mainly due to the increased requirements for election expenses.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2023 will be 310 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of six 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 \$178,945,000.

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	163,986	147,196	149,826	174,612
- Allowances	8,255	6,100	5,472	4,197
- Job-related allowances.....	—	—	59	—
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	873	303	475	448
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	10,895	12,121	12,829	15,626
Departmental Expenses				
- Honoraria for members of committees.....	480	480	480	480
- General departmental expenses	48,643	58,409	59,802	67,480
Other Charges				
- Election expenses	1,061,618	980,720	608,485	1,152,653
	1,294,750	1,205,329	837,428	1,415,496