

Head 144 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: CONSTITUTIONAL AND MAINLAND AFFAIRS BUREAU

Controlling officer: the Permanent Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2024–25 **\$883.0m**

Establishment ceiling 2024–25 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 197 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2024 reducing by three posts to 194 posts as at 31 March 2025 **\$191.8m**

In addition, there will be an estimated 23 directorate posts as at 31 March 2024 and as at 31 March 2025.

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

Programme (1) Director of Bureau's Office	This programme contributes to Policy Area 27: Intra-Governmental Services (Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs).
Programme (2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs	This programme contributes to Policy Area 28: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs).
Programme (3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices	This programme contributes to Policy Area 6: Commerce and Industry (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development), Policy Area 10: Immigration Control (Secretary for Security) and Policy Area 28: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs).
Programme (4) Rights of the Individual Programme (5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data	These programmes contribute to Policy Area 28: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs).

Detail

Programme (1): Director of Bureau's Office

	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Original)	2023–24 (Revised)	2024–25 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	12.7	14.8	13.4 (–9.5%)	15.2 (+13.4%)
				(or +2.7% on 2023–24 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to ensure the smooth operation of the Office of the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs.

Brief Description

3 The Office of the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs is responsible for providing support to the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs in undertaking political work. This includes the support provided by the Under Secretary and the Political Assistant. The Office is also responsible for providing administrative support to the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs in carrying out his duties. The work includes the planning, co-ordination and implementation of all arrangements for the Secretary's public, media and community functions.

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Programme (2): Constitutional and Mainland Affairs

	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Original)	2023–24 (Revised)	2024–25 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	215.6	228.1	216.2 (–5.2%)	249.8 (+15.5%)
				(or +9.5% on 2023–24 Original)

Aim

4 The aims are to advise on and oversee the implementation of the Basic Law; to foster co-operation with the Mainland, Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) and Taiwan; and to handle Hong Kong's constitutional affairs in accordance with the Basic Law.

Brief Description

5 The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau's main responsibilities under this programme are as follows:

- advise bureaux and departments on matters relating to the implementation of the Basic Law, and promote public awareness and understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law;
- promote and co-ordinate co-operation and liaison with the Mainland, MSAR and Taiwan, and advise bureaux and departments on related matters as necessary;
- implement the improved electoral system and continue to enhance the electoral arrangements; and
- promote and co-ordinate the work of bureaux in taking forward the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area).

6 In accordance with the improved district governance system and the reformed District Councils, the 2023 District Council Ordinary Election was held in a fair, just, safe, clean and orderly manner on 10 December 2023.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024–25

7 During 2024–25, the Bureau will:

- continue to strengthen the promotion and co-ordination work in taking forward the development of the Greater Bay Area through the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office;
- support the Steering Group on Integration into National Development chaired by the Chief Executive to actively dovetail with the national strategies including the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the Greater Bay Area development, and strengthen regional co-operation with the Mainland; and
- work closely with the Electoral Affairs Commission to ensure that elections are open, fair and honest while at the same time safe and orderly, more efficient and user-friendly as well as to continue to enhance and further apply information technology in electoral arrangements.

Programme (3): Mainland and Taiwan Offices^φ

	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Original)	2023–24 (Revised)	2024–25 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	357.0	353.2	341.5 (–3.3%)	357.1 (+4.6%)
				(or +1.1% on 2023–24 Original)

^φ The Hong Kong Economic, Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan has temporarily suspended its operation until further notice.

Aim

8 The aims are to enhance liaison, communication, trade and commercial relations as well as investment promotion in the Mainland, and to provide support and practicable assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland.

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Brief Description

9 The major responsibilities of the Beijing Office (BJO), the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs) in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan (the Mainland Offices) are to:

- enhance liaison and communication with the Central People’s Government (CPG), the provincial and municipal governments and other local authorities in the Mainland;
- represent and promote Hong Kong’s trade and commercial interests in the Mainland;
- encourage and attract investments to Hong Kong, and promote Hong Kong’s many advantages as an investment and business hub in Asia;
- promote the strengths of Hong Kong to the Mainland provinces, regions and municipalities;
- provide information and other appropriate support to Hong Kong residents in the Mainland;
- provide practicable assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland;
- facilitate the application of foreign nationals in the Mainland for entry visas to Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) at BJO and Shanghai ETO and maintain close liaison with relevant CPG departments and foreign diplomatic corps in Beijing on immigration matters (BJO only); and
- facilitate the application for and collection of HKSAR travel documents (including HKSAR passport, document of identity for visa purposes and re-entry permit) in the Mainland.

10 The key performance measures are:

Indicators

Enhancing Trade Opportunities

	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)‡	2024 (Estimate)‡
meetings on trade-related matters attended.....	719	775	800
visits to Mainland authorities and trade organisations◇.....	935	1 103	1 105
seminars, exhibitions and workshops			
organised.....	143	160	160
participated.....	470	528	530
public speeches given.....	181	212	215
media interviews/briefings given.....	124	140	140
no. of special trade-related messages issued.....	526	567	570

◇ Revised description of the previous indicator “visits to Mainland/Taiwan authorities and trade organisations” as from 2023.

Promotion of Strengths of Hong Kong

	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Estimate)
call on senior officials/personnel/organisations.....	2 703	3 135‡	3 200‡
public relations/cultural functions/events			
organised.....	584	618	620‡
participated.....	748	884‡	885‡
newsletters/pamphlets/press releases issued.....	3 118	4 003‡	4 075‡
no. of visitors received.....	3 126	4 965‡	4 975‡
public speeches given.....	245	267‡	270‡
media interviews/briefings given.....	309	325‡	330‡
enquiries handled (excluding those related to immigration matters).....	13 435	12 369□	11 220□

‡ As there was a significant rebound in activities conducted by the Mainland Offices in 2023 after the pandemic, the actual figures are higher than the estimate for 2023. The estimated targets for 2024 reflect the steady growth of the performance indicators.

□ There was a steady deduction in the number of enquires handled by the Mainland Offices in 2023 after the pandemic. The estimated figure of the indicator “enquiries handled (excluding those related to immigration matters)” for 2024 will further decrease to the level before the pandemic.

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Investment Promotion

	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Estimate)
new projects generated#.....	129	245	248
projects completed§	82	124	124

New projects with the potential of becoming completed projects in the coming 18 months. It reflects Invest Hong Kong's investment promotion efforts in a particular year, discounting projects carried forward from previous years.

§ Investment projects each resulting in a Mainland company setting up or undergoing a significant expansion in Hong Kong with the assistance of Invest Hong Kong.

Immigration-related Matters

Targets

	Target	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Plan)
average processing time per case upon receipt of all supporting documents (BJO/Shanghai ETO)				
unreferred visas/entry permits within three working days (% of cases).....	95	98	98	98
referred visas/entry permits within six weeks (% of cases).....	85	90	90	90
average processing time per HKSAR passport application upon receipt of all supporting documents				
within six weeks (% of cases)δ	100	100	100	100
average processing time per document of identity for visa purposes or re-entry permit replacement application upon receipt of all supporting documents				
within six weeks (% of cases)δ	100	100	100	100
normal response time per case assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland within the same day upon request (% of cases)	95	96	96	96

δ The time for forwarding the application and dispatching the HKSAR passport, document of identity for visa purposes and re-entry permit is excluded.

Indicators

	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Estimate)
unreferred visas/entry permit cases (BJO/Shanghai ETO)Ω			
received	179	2 757	2 895
processed	175	2 535	2 660
referred visas/entry permit cases (BJO/Shanghai ETO)Ω			
received	2 654	3 387	3 555
processed	2 585	3 131	3 285
HKSAR passportθ			
no. of applications received	5 367	8 218	8 395
no. of passports issued	13 825	29 371	29 910
Document of identity for visa purposes and re-entry permit replacement			
no. of applications received	5 821	5 273	5 300
no. of travel documents issued.....	1 510	2 557	2 575

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	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Estimate)
provision of practicable assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress in the Mainland by the Immigration Divisions (no. of cases).....	1 100	428	440
no. of enquiries handled by the Immigration Divisions.....	179 804	217 379	221 995

Ω “Visa” is issued to foreign nationals for entry to the HKSAR, whereas “entry permit” is issued to Chinese residents of the Mainland, MSAR, and Taiwan for entry to the HKSAR. The Immigration Divisions of BJO and Shanghai ETO are authorised to process and approve or refuse only certain categories of visa and entry permit applications without referring to the Immigration Department in Hong Kong.

θ Online applicants for HKSAR passport may collect their passports in Mainland Offices since late 2021. Hence, the number of applications received may be fewer than the number of passports issued.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024–25

11 During 2024–25, the relevant Mainland Offices will:

- promote the strengths of Hong Kong in the Mainland, especially the distinctive advantages of enjoying strong support of the Motherland and being closely connected to the world;
- strengthen economic and trade liaison with and enhance the investment promotion function in the Mainland;
- strengthen co-operation with the relevant organisations and institutions, and promote opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area development and provide appropriate assistance to Hong Kong people and enterprises pursuing development in the Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area through the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Promotion Centre (Guangdong ETO only);
- strengthen communication with the Hong Kong businessmen operating in the Mainland; provide better support to the Hong Kong businessmen by obtaining and disseminating information on policy and legislation relating to commerce and trade and the latest economic developments; and
- collate practical and useful information and disseminate to Hong Kong people living in the Mainland.

Programme (4): Rights of the Individual

	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Original)	2023–24 (Revised)	2024–25 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	29.4#	31.2	30.9 (–1.0%)	32.1 (+3.9%)
				(or +2.9% on 2023–24 Original)

For comparison purpose, the figure excludes relevant provision for children’s rights which has been transferred to Head 141 — Government Secretariat: Labour and Welfare Bureau due to re-organisation of the Government Secretariat with effect from 1 July 2022.

Aim

12 The aim is to co-ordinate and oversee the implementation of government policies on the rights of the individual.

Brief Description

13 The Bureau focuses attention on the rights of the individual in respect of protection for personal data privacy and human rights, and promotion of equal opportunities on the ground of gender, family status, race and sexual orientation. It promotes public education and encourages community participation to enhance public awareness and respect for the rights of the individual. The Bureau also oversees compliance with the reporting requirements under four human rights conventions which apply to the HKSAR.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024–25

14 During 2024–25, the Bureau will continue to:

- work with the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) to study ways to enhance protection from discrimination and harassment; and
- promote equal opportunities for people of different sexual orientations/gender identities, including following up on the recommendations made by the Advisory Group on Eliminating Discrimination against Sexual Minorities.

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Programme (5): Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Original)	2023–24 (Revised)	2024–25 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)				
Equal Opportunities Commission	138.5	129.9	138.4 (+6.5%)	131.4 (–5.1%) (or +1.2% on 2023–24 Original)
Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data	89.4	94.5	94.0 (–0.5%)	97.4 (+3.6%) (or +3.1% on 2023–24 Original)
Total	227.9	224.4	232.4 (+3.6%)	228.8 (–1.5%) (or +2.0% on 2023–24 Original)

Equal Opportunities Commission

Aim

15 The aim is to oversee the implementation of the Sex Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 480) (SDO), the Disability Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 487) (DDO), the Family Status Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 527) (FSDO) and the Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602) (RDO) which prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sex, marital status, pregnancy, breastfeeding, disability, family status and race.

Brief Description

16 The EOC is an independent statutory body established in 1996. The main functions of the EOC are to eliminate discrimination and promote equal opportunities as provided by the SDO, DDO, FSDO and RDO, through the following work:

- receive complaints, conduct investigations, encourage conciliation between the parties in dispute and take actions in accordance with the powers provided for in the concerned ordinances;
- develop and issue codes of practice for the concerned ordinances;
- keep under review the operation of the concerned ordinances and when necessary, draw up proposals for amendment;
- conduct research on issues relevant to discrimination and equal opportunities as provided by the concerned ordinances; and
- implement public education and publicity activities to promote equal opportunities and anti-discrimination.

17 The performance targets and indicators of the EOC are as follows:

Targets

	Target	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Plan)
interviewing a walk-in enquirer within 30 minutes (% of cases).....	95	100	100	100
replying to written enquiries on complex issues within 14 working days (% of cases).....	95	100	100	100
concluding a complaint case within six months (% of cases).....	75	86	90	80
responding to requests for guided group visits within five working days (% of cases).....	95	100	100	100

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	Target	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Plan)
major promotional events convened (no. of events).....	60	61	63	65
participants satisfied with the training services provided by the EOC (% of participants).....	80	99	99	99
Indicators				
		2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Estimate)
enquiries.....		8 705	10 198	10 500
visits to website.....		2 008 788	3 022 674	3 173 000
complaint investigation				
complaints received.....		873	1 050	1 100
complaints handled.....		1 140	1 294	1 300
active cases at year end.....		243	310	350
complaints where legal assistance was granted.....		8	7	—¶
complaints taken to court.....		3	3	—¶
self-initiated investigationΨ				
cases processed.....		37	37	37
cases resolved.....		28	35	35
cases taken to court.....		0	0	—¶
conciliation and settlement				
complaints conciliated.....		154	148	160
complaints successfully conciliated after proceeding to conciliation stage (%).....		87	82	82
average time taken to reach a successful conciliation (days).....		105	93	93
favourable court ruling/settlement for cases with legal assistance granted from the EOC (%).....		100	100	—¶
promotional/training activities				
visits/seminars/drama performances/training activities (audience).....	960 (102 500)		820 (75 000)α	620(43 500)α
average cost of conducting training activities (HK\$ per session).....		7,055	6,933	7,300
funding programme (no. of applications approved).....		17	12@	12
copies of codes of practice issued/downloadedμ.....		6 600	6 700	13 800μ
online resource centre hit rates.....		77 257 046	85 796 782	90 086 600
service users' feedbackΔ				
parties involved in the complaints who favourably rated the EOC's complaint handling (%)‡.....		—	66	—
enquirers who favourably rated the EOC's enquiry handling (%)#.....		—	70	—
participants satisfied with activities held under the funding programme (%).....		99	99	99
participants in the EOC's training activities accepting equal opportunities issues in workplace (%)Θ.....		97	97	97

¶ Difficult to estimate.

Ψ Investigation on complaints other than those under the indicator “complaint investigation”.

α The EOC will gradually develop online educational modules to replace drama performances progressively starting from the 2023/24 school year. The EOC plans to distribute the online modules to about 600 primary schools for use in the 2024/25 school year, potentially reaching over 330 000 students.

@ In 2023, the sponsorship ceiling of the original application category under the Community Participation Funding Programme on Equal Opportunities was raised from \$50,000 to \$100,000 so as to attract larger and more reputable organisations to organise large-scale events. Hence, the number of funded projects has slightly decreased while the overall amount of funds earmarked remains unchanged.

μ Revised description of the previous indicator “copies of codes of practice issued” as from 2024. From 2024 onwards, it is estimated that this indicator will record a substantial increase as the EOC will include the number of downloads of the electronic codes of practice in addition to the number of hardcopies circulated to better reflect the usage.

Δ Revised description of the previous indicator “customer satisfaction” as from 2024.

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- ‡ Revised description of the previous indicator “parties involved in the complaints satisfied with the service provided to them by the EOC” as from 2023. The EOC adopts a longitudinal research analysis on efficiency and effectiveness of its complaint handling and enquiry handling. This approach helps keep track of the trend of service users’ feedback on relevant services of the EOC over a protracted period of time. The surveys were conducted every two years, with the last two conducted in 2021 and 2023.
- # New indicator as from 2023. The EOC adopts a longitudinal research analysis on efficiency and effectiveness of its complaint handling and enquiry handling. This approach helps keep track of the trend of service users’ feedback on relevant services of the EOC over a protracted period of time. The surveys were conducted every two years, with the last two conducted in 2021 and 2023.
- ⊖ The indicator was previously subsumed under “promotional/training activities” and will be subsumed under “service users’ feedback” as from 2024.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024–25

18 During 2024–25, the EOC will:

- work with the Government to ensure that equal opportunities will be taken into account in the policy-making process and liaise with the Government and relevant stakeholder bodies regarding the recommendations made following various reviews;
- advocate education and employment opportunities and access to services for disadvantaged racial communities and persons with disabilities (PWDs), and promote inclusion of PWDs in society and assist in removing the barriers faced by PWDs in various aspects of life;
- foster a friendly environment free from discrimination and harassment, particularly in prevention of sexual harassment;
- join hands with the private and education sectors to promote racial inclusion and equality through the Racial Diversity and Inclusion Charter for Employers and the Racially Friendly Campus Recognition Scheme; and
- cultivate the values of inclusion and diversity among young people through EOC’s social media platforms including Instagram, and establish a team of Youth Ambassadors through the Equal Opportunity Youth Ambassador Scheme to help spread the idea of equal opportunities.

Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

Aim

19 The aim is to oversee the implementation of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486) (PDPO) which protects the privacy of individuals in relation to personal data.

Brief Description

20 The Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data is an independent statutory authority established in 1996 and has the key functions and powers to:

- monitor and supervise compliance with the provisions of the PDPO;
- approve and issue codes of practice, guidance notes and information leaflets to give practical guidance for compliance with the provisions of the PDPO;
- promote awareness and understanding of the provisions of the PDPO and inter-regional regulatory frameworks;
- carry out inspections of personal data systems, including those of government departments and statutory bodies;
- upon receipt of complaints from data subjects or on the Commissioner’s own initiative, investigate suspected breaches of the requirements of the PDPO; and
- carry out criminal investigations of doxxing-related offences and institute prosecutions for summary offences upon collection of sufficient evidence.

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21 The performance targets and indicators of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (PCPD) are as follows:

Targets

	Target	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Plan)
handling public complaints				
acknowledgement of a complaint				
within two working days of				
receipt (% of cases)	98	99	100	99
closing a complaint case within				
180 days of receipt (% of cases).....	92	98	97	95
handling public enquiries				
call back within two working days				
upon receipt of a telephone				
enquiry (% of cases)	99	100	100	99
acknowledgement of a written				
enquiry within two working days				
of receipt (% of cases)	99	100	100	99
substantive reply to a written enquiry				
within 28 working days of				
receipt (% of cases)	95	100	100	98

Indicators

	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Estimate)
public enquiries ϕ			
public enquiries received	14 929	15 914	16 000
complaints Ω			
complaints received.....	3 848	3 582	3 200
complaints brought forward.....	1 124	835	835
complaint cases for handling.....	4 972	4 417	4 035
complaints completed	4 019	3 390	3 200
complaint cases resolved after remedial/follow-up			
actions \wedge	164	732	600
average time taken for handling cases			
average time taken to settle a complaint			
case with bilateral handling (days) \diamond	17	23	23
average time taken to settle a complaint case with			
tripartite handling (days) ω	84	94	94
enforcement actions			
warning notices issued	48	100	75
enforcement notices issued	13	15	15
referral to prosecution \natural	38	51	35
compliance			
matching procedure consent applications	51	31	30
inspections of personal data systems	1	2	2
compliance checks	392	393	350
investigations			
investigations initiated	90	125	90
investigations completed.....	82	136	90
criminal investigations against acts related to doxxing \S			
investigations initiated	89	140	90
investigations completed.....	86	124	70
recommendations given			
cases with recommendations given on the compliance			
with the PDPO	835	976	800
codes of practice/guidance notes			
codes of practice/guidance notes issued.....	7	12	7
legal, policy and research			
no. of cases involving legal proceedings ϕ	6	21	15

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	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Estimate)
promotional and educational activities			
major promotional activities (participants)	16 (2 149 256)	23 (1 772 550)	15 (1 500 000)
industry specific privacy campaigns (participants).....	4 (2 859)	5 (2 777)	3 (2 500)
talks, seminars and workshops (participants)	313 (28 517)	416 (36 608)	320 (25 000)
visits to website	1 759 408	2 422 964	1 800 000

- ϕ Public enquiries include hotline, walk-in and written enquiries.
- Ω Including PCPD’s self-initiated online patrol cases against doxxing acts.
- ^ Revised description of the previous indicator “complaint cases resolved after remedial/follow-up actions taken by a complainee” as from 2023 to include the complaint cases that were resolved after remedial/follow-up actions being taken (be it by the complainee or PCPD).
- ◇ “Bilateral handling” refers to cases where PCPD communicates with the complainant only.
- ω “Tripartite handling” refers to cases where PCPD communicates with the complainant and the party being complained against.
- ⊖ Including referral for investigation and consideration of prosecution.
- § New indicators as from 2024.
- φ Such cases include new Administrative Appeals Board cases received in the respective calendar year under review.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024–25

22 During 2024–25, PCPD will:

- in collaboration with the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, consider possible amendments to the PDPO to align with international developments in privacy protection, strengthen personal data protection, and address the challenges posed by cyber technologies;
- continue to exercise its enforcement powers under the PDPO to combat doxxing acts;
- forge closer connections with other data protection authorities with a view to fostering closer co-operation and collaboration; and
- continue to provide advice to relevant authorities on initiatives and reforms impacting personal data privacy.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2022–23 (Actual) (\$m)	2023–24 (Original) (\$m)	2023–24 (Revised) (\$m)	2024–25 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Director of Bureau’s Office	12.7	14.8	13.4	15.2
(2) Constitutional and Mainland Affairs	215.6	228.1	216.2	249.8
(3) Mainland and Taiwan Offices	357.0	353.2	341.5	357.1
(4) Rights of the Individual	29.4	31.2	30.9	32.1
(5) Subvention: Equal Opportunities Commission and Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data	227.9	224.4	232.4	228.8
	842.6‡	851.7	834.4 (–2.0%)	883.0 (+5.8%)
				(or +3.7% on 2023–24 Original)

‡ For comparison purpose, the figure has been adjusted to reflect the provisions for the relevant programme under this Head due to the re-organisation of the Government Secretariat with effect from 1 July 2022.

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2024–25 is \$1.8 million (13.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2023–24. This is mainly due to the lower salary expenditure in 2023–24 arising from the vacancy of a politically appointed position in that year, and provision has to be made again in 2024–25 for these expenditures.

Programme (2)

Provision for 2024–25 is \$33.6 million (15.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2023–24. This is mainly due to the increased provision for operating expenses.

Programme (3)

Provision for 2024–25 is \$15.6 million (4.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2023–24. This is mainly due to the increased provision for operating expenses.

Programme (4)

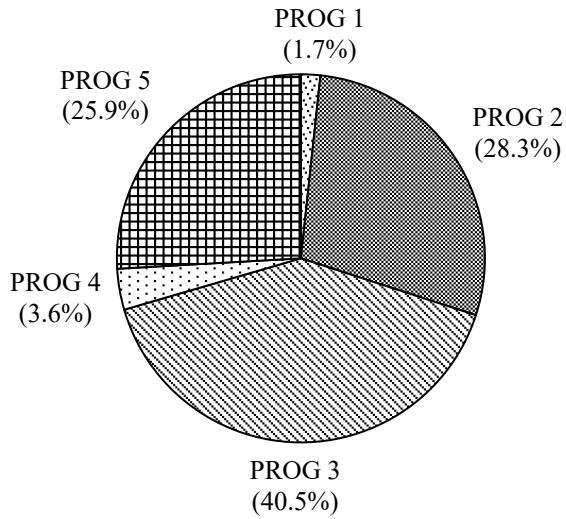
Provision for 2024–25 is \$1.2 million (3.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2023–24. This is mainly due to the increased provision for operating expenses.

Programme (5)

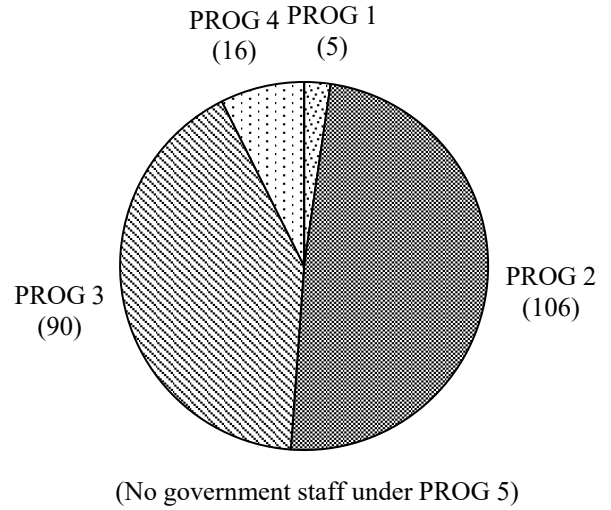
Provision for 2024–25 is \$3.6 million (1.5%) lower than the revised estimate for 2023–24. This is mainly due to the cessation of the time-limited subvention to the EOC, partly offset by the increased provision to the PCPD.

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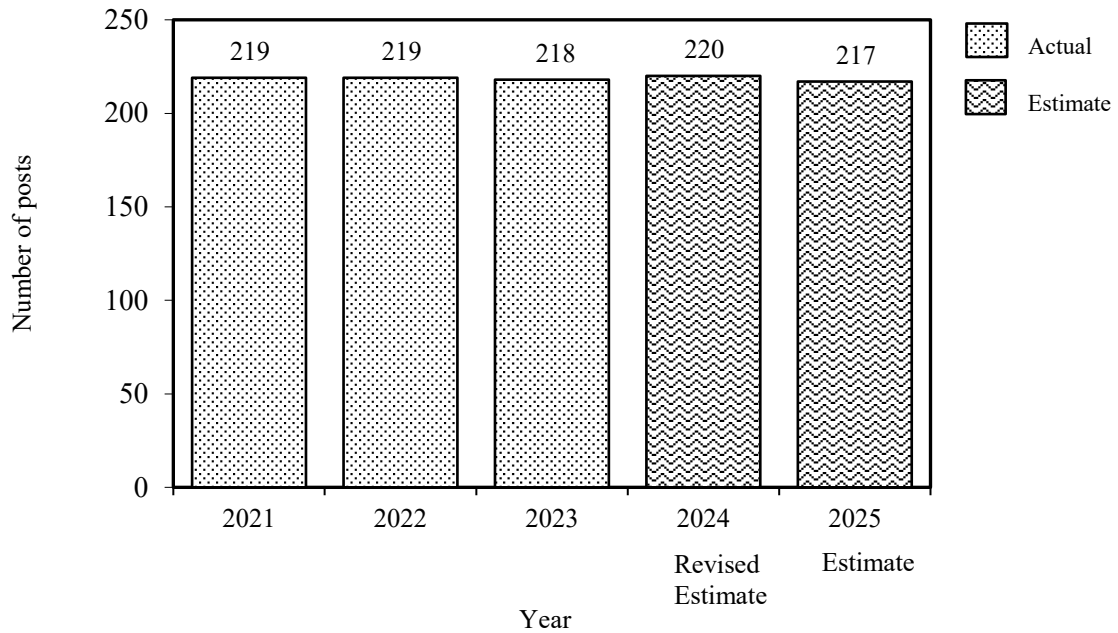
Allocation of provision to programmes (2024-25)



Staff by programme (as at 31 March 2025)



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



**Head 144 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: CONSTITUTIONAL AND
MAINLAND AFFAIRS BUREAU**

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2022–23	Approved estimate 2023–24	Revised estimate 2023–24	Estimate 2024–25	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	842,257	851,045	833,770	883,026
	Total, Recurrent.....	842,257	851,045	833,770	883,026
	Total, Operating Account	842,257	851,045	833,770	883,026
Capital Account					
Subventions					
	Equal Opportunities Commission - minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	—	637	637	—
	Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data - minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	673	—	—	—
	Total, Subventions	673	637	637	—
	Total, Capital Account.....	673	637	637	—
	Total Expenditure	842,930	851,682	834,407	883,026

Head 144 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: CONSTITUTIONAL AND MAINLAND AFFAIRS BUREAU

Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2024–25 for the salaries and expenses of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau is \$883,026,000. This represents an increase of \$48,619,000 over the revised estimate for 2023–24 and \$40,096,000 over the actual expenditure in 2022–23.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 It is operationally necessary for the Beijing Office, and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices in Guangdong, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan to make certain payments in the local currency, i.e. Renminbi (RMB). Expenditure in RMB will be charged to the appropriate subheads at the exchange rate of RMB1= HK\$1.10927.

3 Provision of \$883,026,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau.

4 The establishment as at 31 March 2024 will be 220 posts including two supernumerary posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of three posts in 2024–25. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2024–25, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$191,756,000.

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

	2022–23 (Actual) (\$'000)	2023–24 (Original) (\$'000)	2023–24 (Revised) (\$'000)	2024–25 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	204,034	230,066	214,611	236,118
- Allowances	23,924	28,999	24,412	27,265
- Job-related allowances.....	36	4	7	6
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	233	133	179	130
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	15,529	18,481	17,948	22,110
- Disturbance allowance.....	3,014	6,794	3,792	5,599
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	273,263	288,698	279,466	310,594
Other Charges				
- Publicity.....	89,695	49,338	56,783	48,541
- Activities to promote equal opportunities and human rights	5,286	4,800	4,800	3,800
Subventions				
- Equal Opportunities Commission	138,547	129,277	137,749	131,422
- Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data	88,696	94,455	94,023	97,441
	842,257	851,045	833,770	883,026