

**Head 180 — OFFICE FOR FILM, NEWSPAPER AND ARTICLE ADMINISTRATION**

**Controlling officer:** the Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration will account for expenditure under this Head.

**Estimate 2024–25** ..... **\$60.6m**

**Establishment ceiling 2024–25** (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 65 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2024 and as at 31 March 2025 ..... **\$33.6m**

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

**Controlling Officer’s Report**

**Programme**

**Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration**

This programme contributes to Policy Area 17: Information Technology and Broadcasting (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development) and Policy Area 18: Recreation, Culture, Amenities and Entertainment Licensing (Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs).

**Detail**

	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Original)	2023–24 (Revised)	<b>2024–25 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	53.0	56.8	57.1 (+0.5%)	<b>60.6</b> (+6.1%)
				(or +6.7% on 2023–24 Original)

**Aim**

**2** The aim is to enforce a system of film classification according to the Film Censorship Ordinance (Cap. 392) (FCO) through a censorship scheme which meets the needs and reflects the moral standards of the community; to control, together with the Police and the Customs and Excise Department, the publication of obscene and indecent articles by enforcing the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (Cap. 390) (COIAO); and to register local newspapers under the Registration of Local Newspapers Ordinance (Cap. 268) (RLNO).

**Brief Description**

**3** On film classification, the Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration is responsible for the examination of films for public exhibition under the three-tier film classification system and the examination of advertising materials and packaging of films that fall within the statutory definition of Category III (for persons aged 18 or above only). The work of the Office involves:

- classifying films for public exhibition and publication, and granting exemption from classification;
- examining advertising materials and packaging of physical storage media of Category III films;
- inspecting cinemas to enforce the age restriction for audience admission and other provisions under the FCO;
- inspecting video shops and other retail outlets to regulate the publication of films;
- gauging public opinions on film classification standards;
- maintaining a panel of advisers to allow public participation in the film classification process; and
- promoting the three-tier film classification system to the public.

**4** On the enforcement of the COIAO, the Office is responsible for:

- regulating the publication and public display of obscene and indecent articles under the COIAO through monitoring articles published in the media and inspecting newspaper stalls, video and computer shops and other retail outlets;
- taking appropriate enforcement and prosecution actions against violations of the COIAO;

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- liaising with Internet service providers and the Hong Kong Internet Service Providers Association on the regulation of obscene and indecent materials transmitted through the Internet;
- organising publicity and public education programmes to promote public awareness of the provisions of the COIAO; and
- processing complaints relating to the publication of obscene and indecent articles.

5 In 2023, the Office continued its efforts in promoting public awareness of the protection of youth from indecent and obscene materials. Major activities organised are set out below:

- the Meritorious Website Contest was held to promote safe and smart use of the Internet;
- the Healthy Apps Contest was organised to promote the use of healthy applications in mobile phones or tablet computers;
- district talks and workshops to promote the use of filtering software were conducted, with free filtering software distributed to parent participants;
- 233 school talks for students/parents on safe and smart use of the Internet to protect the youth from indecent and obscene materials were conducted;
- a student video contest was held to promote the healthy use of the Internet among youngsters;
- a student ambassador training scheme was implemented to recruit students to help promote the COIAO;
- a school drama tour programme was conducted to promote the COIAO to students of primary and secondary schools;
- a mobile app sticker design competition was conducted to encourage youngsters to stay away from unhealthy materials and electronic games;
- a public speaking competition was conducted to increase the awareness of students of objectionable materials and to promote the COIAO among youngsters; and
- a four-frame photo contest was held to encourage students to stay away from unhealthy materials.

6 The Office is also responsible for newspaper registration and related matters under the RLNO.

7 The key performance measures in respect of film classification, control of obscene and indecent articles and newspaper registration are:

### Targets

	Targets	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Plan)
<i>Film classification</i>				
assigning film viewing sessions for films submitted for classification within seven working days (%) .....	100	98.5	99.7	100
notifying applicants on decisions about film classification within eight working days (%).....	100	100	100	100
issuing Certificates of Exemption to applicants within three working days (%).....	100	100	100	100
issuing Certificates of Packaging to applicants within two working days (%).....	100	100	100	100
issuing Certificates of Advertising Materials to applicants within two working days (%).....	100	100	100	100
<i>COIAO</i>				
issuing interim replies to complainants within seven working days (%) .....	100	100	100	100
issuing substantive replies to complainants regarding investigation results on their complaints within 20 working days (%).....	100	100	100	100

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	Targets	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Plan)
<i>Newspaper Registration</i>				
new registration for local newspapers within seven working days (%) .....	100	100	100	<b>100</b>
<b>Indicators</b>				
		2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Estimate)
<i>Film classification</i>				
films classified .....		1 984	2 328¶	<b>2 330</b>
films exempted from classification .....		5 279	6 802¶	<b>6 810</b>
packaging examined.....		27	25	<b>30</b>
advertising materials of films examined .....		136	206¶	<b>210</b>
inspections conducted .....		950	1 300¶	<b>1 300</b>
<i>COIAO</i>				
articles scrutinised.....		286 817	295 889	<b>295 000@</b>
inspections conducted .....		61 896	64 633	<b>61 000@</b>
summonses issued .....		15	22§	<b>22§</b>
enforcement operations conducted.....		160	160	<b>150@</b>
obscene and indecent articles seized.....		6 334	127§	<b>127§</b>
talks and seminars conducted.....		255	233	<b>233</b>
<i>Newspaper Registration</i>				
local newspapers and news-related publications registered.....		507	466	<b>466</b>
newspaper distributor licences issued .....		42	27	<b>27</b>

¶ The number has increased in 2023 due to the re-opening of cinemas and exhibition venues and resumption of film festivals and events after the COVID-19 epidemic.

@ The estimated number of articles scrutinised, the estimated number of inspections and the estimated number of enforcement operations to be conducted in 2024 are expected to decrease due to the reduction in the number of relevant retail outlets like newspaper stalls and video shops.

§ The number is affected by factors such as the number of offences detected and the evidence warranting prosecution. The estimated number in 2024 is expected to be similar to the actual figure of 2023.

***Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024–25***

**8** During 2024–25, the Office will:

- continue its enforcement of the FCO and the COIAO; and
- continue to organise publicity and public education programmes to promote public awareness of the FCO and the COIAO.

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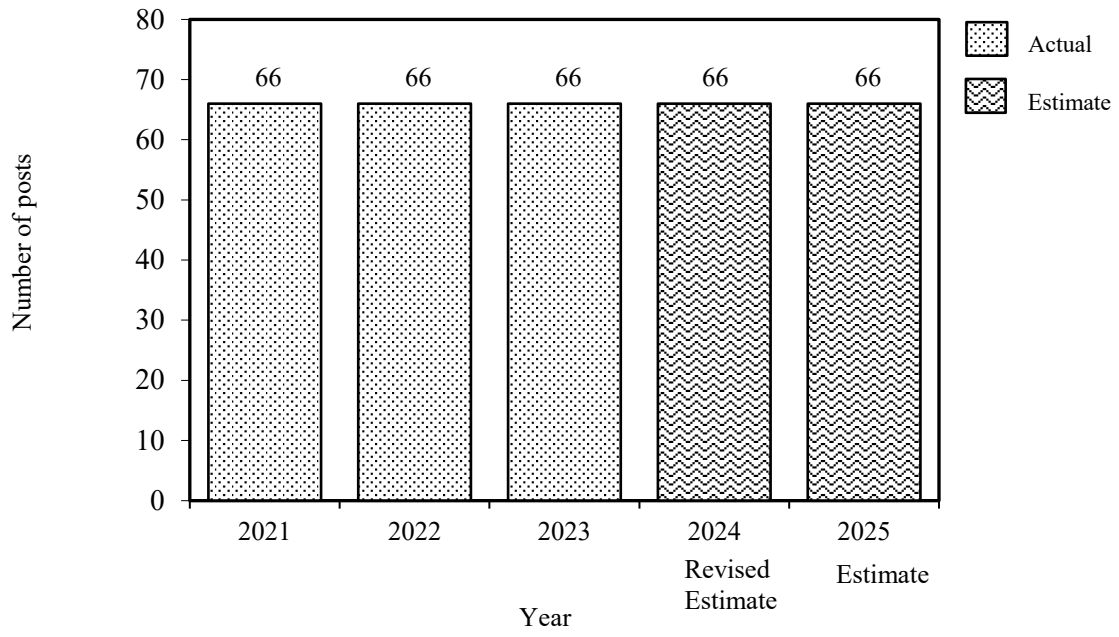
**ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION**

	2022–23 (Actual) (\$m)	2023–24 (Original) (\$m)	2023–24 (Revised) (\$m)	2024–25 (Estimate) (\$m)
<b>Programme</b>				
Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration.....	53.0	56.8	57.1 (+0.5%)	<b>60.6</b> <b>(+6.1%)</b>
				<b>(or +6.7% on 2023–24 Original)</b>

**Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision**

Provision for 2024–25 is \$3.5 million (6.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 2023–24. This is mainly due to increased requirement for operating expenses.

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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2022–23	Approved estimate 2023–24	Revised estimate 2023–24	Estimate 2024–25	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
<b>Operating Account</b>					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses .....	51,430	56,816	57,015	<b>60,569</b>
	Total, Recurrent .....	51,430	56,816	57,015	<b>60,569</b>
	Total, Operating Account .....	51,430	56,816	57,015	<b>60,569</b>
<b>Capital Account</b>					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote) .....	1,617	—	66	—
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works .....	1,617	—	66	—
	Total, Capital Account .....	1,617	—	66	—
	Total Expenditure .....	53,047	56,816	57,081	<b>60,569</b>

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### Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2024–25 for the salaries and expenses of the Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (OFNAA) is \$60,569,000. This represents an increase of \$3,488,000 over the revised estimate for 2023–24 and \$7,522,000 over the actual expenditure in 2022–23.

#### *Operating Account*

#### Recurrent

**2** Provision of \$60,569,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of OFNAA.

**3** The establishment as at 31 March 2024 will be 66 permanent posts. No change in establishment is expected 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 \$33,620,000.

**4** 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)	<b>2024–25 (Estimate) (\$'000)</b>
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries .....	36,633	39,168	39,490	<b>39,494</b>
- Allowances .....	249	211	631	<b>631</b>
- Job-related allowances.....	11	4	1	<b>2</b>
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution .....	74	20	55	<b>43</b>
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution .....	2,602	3,395	3,076	<b>3,394</b>
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses .....	11,861	14,018	13,762	<b>17,005</b>
	51,430	56,816	57,015	<b>60,569</b>