

## Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**Controlling officer:** the Director of Administration and Development will account for expenditure under this Head.

**Estimate 2026–27** ..... **\$2,539.1m**

**Establishment ceiling 2026–27** (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 1 402 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2026 reducing by 29 posts to 1 373 posts as at 31 March 2027..... **\$1,059.7m**

In addition, there will be an estimated 102 directorate posts as at 31 March 2026 reducing by one post to 101 posts as at 31 March 2027.

**Commitment balance**..... **\$14.2m**

### Controlling Officer’s Report

#### Programmes

<p><b>Programme (1) Prosecutions</b>  <b>Programme (2) Civil</b>  <b>Programme (3) Constitutional and Policy Affairs</b>  <b>Programme (4) Law Drafting</b>  <b>Programme (5) International Law</b></p>	<p>These programmes contribute to Policy Area 11: Legal Administration (Secretary for Justice).</p>
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#### Detail

##### Programme (1): Prosecutions

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	<b>2026–27 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	830.7	1,058.8	887.5 (–16.2%)	<b>1,091.5</b> (+23.0%)
				(or +3.1% on 2025–26 Original)

#### *Aim*

**2** The aim is to advise and decide whether or not criminal proceedings should be undertaken and to prosecute cases in the courts.

#### *Brief Description*

**3** The Prosecutions Division advises upon and prosecutes criminal cases in all the courts of Hong Kong. Government Counsel across the Division prosecute in trials; appear in appeals, applications for bail and asset recovery cases; and assist the coroner in inquests. Most cases in the Magistrates’ Courts are prosecuted by Court Prosecutors. Some cases are briefed out to members of the Bar and solicitors in private practice. Besides, the Division advises law enforcement agencies and other government departments and agencies on criminal law and procedure, and the effects of legislation. Meanwhile, the Division also supports the work of the Secretary for Justice’s Office.

**4** The advisory function of the Prosecutions Division is performed by Government Counsel in various sections. One section is involved in the Division’s training and management matters; other sections are involved in the preparation of cases for trial; whilst specialist sections advise on areas as diverse as corruption, fraud, labour and immigration, vice, obscenity, gambling, anti-terrorism, triads and organised crime, human rights and the Basic Law, complaints against the Police, narcotics, recovery of the proceeds of crime, customs and excise, computer crime, copyright and market misconduct.

**5** In 2025, the aim of the programme was generally met and the overall performance under the programme was satisfactory.

## Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

6 The key performance measures are:

### *Targets*

	Target	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Plan)
providing advice for law enforcement agencies within 14 working days upon receipt of request, or for a complex case, interim reply within 14 working days (%).....	100	96.7	96.8	100
preparing and filing indictments in the Court of First Instance within seven days of committal of the accused in the Magistrates' Courts (%).....	100	100	100	100
preparing and delivering charge sheets to the Registrar of the District Court within 14 days after the date of the order of transfer of the case from the Magistrates' Courts to the District Court (%).....	100	100	100	100

### *Indicators*

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Estimate)
cases conducted by Government Counsel.....	4 282	4 411	4 415
cases conducted by Counsel instructed to prosecute in all courts .....	1 173	1 168	1 170
court days undertaken by Government Counsel .....	4 822	5 020	5 020
court days undertaken by Court Prosecutors in Magistrates' Courts.....	7 334	6 996	7 000
court days undertaken by Counsel instructed to prosecute in the Magistrates' Courts in place of Court Prosecutors .....	3 136	2 920	2 920
cases prepared for the Court of First Instance.....	452	447	450
cases prepared for the District Court.....	1 618	1 843	1 845
items of legal advice provided .....	17 740	18 085	18 085
appeals conducted .....	757	750	750

7 The conviction rates for 2024 and 2025 are:

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)
<b>Magistrates' Courts</b>		
- defendants convicted after trial (%) .....	60.8	60.0
- defendants convicted after trial and defendants convicted on their own pleas (%).....	68.9	67.7
<b>District Court</b>		
- defendants convicted after trial (%) .....	82.3	76.0
- defendants convicted after trial and defendants convicted on their own pleas (%).....	96.0	95.1
<b>Court of First Instance</b>		
- defendants convicted after trial (%) .....	58.7	63.1
- defendants convicted after trial and defendants convicted on their own pleas (%).....	91.8	93.4

The conviction rates are defendant-based and relate to any substantive or alternative offence on which the defendant has been convicted. It does not take into account acquittals of other charges if any.

It should be noted that while it is the duty of Counsel and Court Prosecutors to prosecute vigorously in courts, they have to act in a fair and objective manner. It is wrong to strive to secure a conviction at all costs. The question of guilt or innocence is a matter for the court to decide. Therefore, conviction rates in criminal cases are not and should not be taken as performance indicators. They are published regularly for reference only.

## Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27*

- 8 During 2026–27, the Prosecutions Division will continue to:
- promote co-operation amongst prosecutors at the global level in the combat against crime;
  - enhance the quality of criminal justice by promoting transparency in public prosecutions and liaising closely with justice partners;
  - provide training programmes for counsel in order to enhance the standards of advocacy and preparation in criminal cases;
  - enhance the public’s understanding of the criminal justice system and their role in the system; and
  - handle prosecutorial work and matters relating to the fire at Wang Fuk Court in Tai Po (Tai Po fire) including the review conducted by the Independent Committee.

### **Programme (2): Civil**

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	<b>2026–27 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	671.8	848.4	673.6 (–20.6%)	<b>852.5</b> (+26.6%)
				(or +0.5% on 2025–26 Original)

### *Aim*

9 The aim is to provide legal advice to the Government on civil matters, to undertake civil litigation and other forms of dispute resolution and to draft contracts on commercial and other matters.

### *Brief Description*

- 10 The work of the Civil Division includes:
- representing the Government and various other bodies in courts and tribunals in all forms of civil litigation and dispute resolution (including non-construction arbitration and mediation);
  - providing legal advice on planning, land, building, environment and housing matters;
  - providing legal advice on commercial law matters and drafting commercial contracts, licences and franchises;
  - providing legal advice on legislation and civil law matters;
  - providing advice and support to the development of the wider use of mediation to resolve disputes in Hong Kong;
  - supporting the work of the Secretary for Justice’s Office, in particular on promoting wider use of mediation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and promoting the strengths of and opportunities for Hong Kong’s legal and dispute resolution services on all fronts;
  - promoting and developing the dispute resolution services of Hong Kong in the context of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Belt and Road Initiative; and
  - formulating and promoting bills, strategies and measures relating to mediation and arbitration in accordance with the policy objectives of the Government.

11 In 2025, the aim of the programme was generally met and the overall performance under the programme was satisfactory.

## Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

12 The key performance measures are:

### *Targets*

	Target	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Plan)
taking appropriate follow-up action on civil litigation cases within seven working days upon referral by client department (%) .....	100	100	100	100
providing legal advice within 14 working days upon receipt of instructions/requests (%)# .....	92	99	98	92

# If achieving the target is not possible due to the complexity of cases, the client department will be advised of the estimated time within which the advice will be provided.

### *Indicators*

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Estimate)
civil litigation cases current on 31 December .....	43 657	43 271	43 270
new proceedings (including non-construction arbitration and mediation) brought by the Government .....	1 882	2 077	2 115
new proceedings (including non-construction arbitration and mediation) brought against the Government .....	2 384	3 498	3 500
person days of court appearances .....	1 698	1 914	2 155
items of legal advice provided .....	16 050	15 951	15 950
commercial tenders, consultancy briefs, contracts, licences and franchises drafted/vetted .....	721	694	695

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27*

13 During 2026–27, the Civil Division will advise on the legal aspects of or provide support for:

- proceedings involving the Government, in particular those involving the Basic Law and Bill of Rights issues, administrative law issues, immigration matters, revenue matters, charities and trusts, contempt of court, election matters, contractual/commercial disputes, personal injuries and other damages claims, land matters, building matters, town planning matters and environmental issues;
- legislative amendments or proposals to establish the heads of department accountability system;
- legislative amendments to tax legislation;
- legislative amendments or proposals with regard to civil aviation for development of low altitude economy;
- legislative review and proposals for improving the healthcare system;
- legislative proposals for enhancing the regulatory mechanism of teachers;
- legislative proposals with regard to family procedure matters;
- legislative review and proposals for protection of animals;
- legislative amendments or proposals on transport related matters, including the regulation of ride-hailing services;
- legislative proposals for adaptation of laws as part of the Systematic Review of Statutory Laws of Hong Kong;
- legislative proposals to strengthen the regulation of collective investment schemes;
- legislative proposals to facilitate the development of digital government;
- legislative proposals to accelerate the development of the Northern Metropolis;
- legislative proposals to amend the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123) to enhance the regulatory regime for private buildings and building works;
- matters relating to the Tai Po fire including the review by the Independent Committee;
- access to information and protection of personal data privacy, civil service and discipline, statutory powers and duties and legal advisers to statutory boards and committees;
- the English and Chinese texts of contracts, undertakings, tender documents, public franchises, licences and other legal documents for the Government, in addition to drafting and vetting such texts;

## Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- the regulation of companies, securities, banks, insurance, information technology, electronic transactions, e-commerce, virtual assets, transportation, broadcasting and telecommunications as well as proposals for reform;
- smart and green mass transit system projects in Kai Tak and in East Kowloon;
- various major projects including the Huanggang Port Redevelopment co-location arrangement;
- matters relating to the Hong Kong Investment Corporation Limited and its funds which include the “Hong Kong Growth Portfolio”, “Greater Bay Area Investment Fund”, “Strategic Tech Fund”, and “Co-Investment Fund”;
- implementation of initiatives under the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area mediation platform;
- implementation of initiatives relating to the Panel of Greater Bay Area Arbitrators;
- implementation of the various measures under the policy initiative of deepening mediation culture, including taking forward the relevant legislative work and other measures to strengthen the regulatory system for the mediation profession in Hong Kong and the ongoing monitoring and review of the implementation of the policy on the incorporation of mediation clauses in government contracts;
- implementation of the Pilot Scheme on Community Mediation together with the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department;
- implementation of the Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution; and
- reviewing and making recommendations to amend the Arbitration Ordinance (Cap. 609).

### Programme (3): Constitutional and Policy Affairs

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	<b>2026–27 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	146.3	134.6	135.4 (+0.6%)	<b>143.0</b> (+5.6%)
				(or +6.2% on 2025–26 Original)

#### *Aim*

**14** The aim is to provide support to the Secretary for Justice in relation to the discharge of his duties; to provide advice on overall legal policy issues and, in particular, in respect of the Basic Law and human rights law in assisting the Government’s formulation of policies (including those in relation to the legal system, the legal profession and dispute resolution); to provide advice on electoral law; to provide comments on the law and other initiatives of the Mainland and other parts of the Cross Strait cum Hong Kong and Macao; and to review chosen areas of the law and provide research and secretariat support to the Law Reform Commission.

#### *Brief Description*

**15** The relevant work of the Secretary for Justice’s Office (including the Legal Enhancement and Development Office (LEAD Office) and the Law Reform Commission Secretariat) and the Constitutional and Policy Affairs Division includes:

- providing support to the Secretary for Justice in relation to his duties as a Member of the Executive Council, a designated officer attending meetings of the Legislative Council (LegCo) and as the principal legal adviser to the Chief Executive;
- assisting in the formulation, co-ordination and implementation of policy initiatives to strengthen rule of law education, enhance Hong Kong’s status as an ideal regional and international hub for deal making and dispute resolution, as well as a leading centre for international legal services and capacity building in this region and beyond, and promote Hong Kong as the preferred platform for overseas expansion by Mainland and foreign enterprises, thereby leveraging Hong Kong’s unique advantages as the country’s only common law jurisdiction to integrate with and better serve the national development;
- providing legal advice on the Basic Law and assisting the promotion of knowledge in it;
- advising on compliance with the human rights provisions of the Basic Law, the provisions of international human rights treaties as applied to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), the Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance (Cap. 383), and anti-discrimination legislation;
- providing legal advice on constitutional development and election matters;
- advising whether a policy or a legislative proposal is contrary to established principles underlying the legal system;
- advising on legal issues arising out of statutory and non-statutory appeals, objections, representations and petitions to the Chief Executive/Chief Executive in Council (including prisoners’ petitions for remission of sentence/pardon, petitions to the Chief Executive under Articles 48(12) and 48(13) of the Basic Law, references

## Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

of cases to the intermediate appellate court under the Criminal Procedure Ordinance (Cap. 221) or the Magistrates Ordinance (Cap. 227) as the case may be), appeals and judicial reviews by claimants for non-refoulement protection, and surrender of fugitives; considering claims for statutory and ex gratia compensation; and handling responses to public enquiries and complaints;

- promoting bills related to the legal system, the legal profession and those effecting relevant subjects of law reform or miscellaneous amendments to various ordinances;
- providing comments and information on the laws and other initiatives of the Mainland and other parts of the Cross Strait cum Hong Kong and Macao; attending to matters on the further liberalisation of the Mainland’s legal services market and on co-operation arrangements with the Mainland and other parts of the Cross Strait cum Hong Kong and Macao; organising seminars and activities to promote Hong Kong’s international legal and dispute resolution services in the Mainland in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area;
- providing advice to the Government on LegCo procedures and practices; and
- providing research and secretariat support to facilitate the work of the Law Reform Commission chaired by the Secretary for Justice.

16 In 2025, the aim of the programme was generally met and the overall performance under the programme was satisfactory.

17 The key performance measures are:

### *Indicators*

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Estimate)
bills promoted by the Constitutional and Policy Affairs			
Division in each LegCo session.....	3	1	2
petitions (from prisoners) handled .....	46	57	57
items of legal advice (including policy affairs work) given on:			
overall legal policy affairs matters.....	2 729	2 988	2 910
Basic Law matters.....	1 077	820	820
human rights issues.....	762	704	704
constitutional development and election matters.....	256	479	479
Mainland law and related matters.....	816	1 002	1 002
ongoing Law Reform Commission projects .....	6	7	7
speeches prepared (both for LegCo and elsewhere) .....	238	257	302
Basic Law seminars conducted and organised <sup>^</sup> .....	9	5	4
briefings given in the Mainland and to Mainland delegations in Hong Kong .....	60	78	75
international and regional events (including meetings of international organisations, promotional and capacity building events relating to the rule of law and dispute resolution)			
number of events organised.....	43	55	44
number of participants.....	42 468	25 780	32 830

<sup>^</sup> Revised description of the previous indicator “Basic Law seminars conducted” as from 2025.

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27*

18 During 2026–27, the Secretary for Justice’s Office (including the LEAD Office and the Law Reform Commission Secretariat) and the Constitutional and Policy Affairs Division will continue to:

- foster and reinforce a proper understanding of the rule of law and cultivate a culture with a strong sense of law-abidingness and respect for the legal and judicial system;
- further enhance the competitiveness of Hong Kong’s legal regime and promote Hong Kong’s diversified legal and dispute resolution services domestically and internationally to meet the needs of all walks of life (including the general public), and to integrate with the national development;
- deepen Mainland and foreign enterprises’ understanding of the advantages of Hong Kong’s legal and other professional services and promote Hong Kong as the preferred platform for overseas expansion;
- support (i) the Secretary for Justice who chairs the Law Reform Commission to lead the project of “Systematic Review of the Statutory Laws of Hong Kong” and (ii) the work of an inter-departmental working group to review the legislation needed to support a wider application of artificial intelligence;
- provide support for promoting the use of LawTech by Hong Kong’s legal sector;

## Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- provide support to the relevant Task Force to examine and consider whether the recommendations in the Report of the Law Reform Commission on Periodical Payments for Future Pecuniary Loss in Personal Injury Cases should be implemented and, if so, how;
- explore further opportunities for Hong Kong legal and dispute resolution professionals to provide services in the Mainland;
- develop working relationships with counterparts in the Mainland and other parts of the Cross Strait cum Hong Kong and Macao;
- take forward the legislative exercise in respect of the Evidence Ordinance (Cap. 8) to establish a legislative framework for the admission of hearsay evidence in criminal proceedings with a view to addressing the recommendations in the Report of the Law Reform Commission on Hearsay in Criminal Proceedings; and take forward the recommendations in the Report of the Law Reform Commission on Double Jeopardy and work out details of the legislative amendments;
- hold discussions with the Mainland authorities for further development of judicial co-operation in civil and commercial matters and, where necessary, take forward the implementation of the co-operation mechanism in Hong Kong by way of legislative exercise; and
- organise visits and training programmes in Hong Kong for Mainland officials and seminars and other promotional activities in the Mainland in order to develop and enhance mutual understanding of the legal systems and professional practices in Hong Kong and the Mainland and to promote Hong Kong's legal and dispute resolution services in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

### Programme (4): Law Drafting

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	<b>2026–27 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	171.0	222.2	198.9 (–10.5%)	<b>214.6</b> (+7.9%)
				(or –3.4% on 2025–26 Original)

### *Aim*

- 19** The aim is to draft legislation and to make the texts of legislation readily accessible.

### *Brief Description*

- 20** The work of the Law Drafting Division includes:

- drafting of legislation in the English and Chinese languages and assisting policy bureaux in steering such legislation through the law-making process;
- compiling the loose-leaf edition of the Laws of Hong Kong;
- maintaining a legislation database for free access through the Internet; and
- supporting the work of the Secretary for Justice's Office.

**21** In 2025, the aim of the programme was generally met and the overall performance under the programme was satisfactory.

- 22** The key performance measures are:

### *Indicators*

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	<b>2026 (Estimate)</b>
bills gazetted.....	33	31	<b>40</b>
subsidiary legislation gazetted .....	194	219	<b>206</b>
pages of bills/subsidiary legislation gazetted (English).....	4 306	4 956	<b>4 600</b>
pages of bills/subsidiary legislation gazetted (Chinese) .....	4 306	4 956	<b>4 600</b>
pages of legislation compiled for publication in the Loose-leaf Edition@.....	209	716	<b>N.A.</b>
pages of verified copies of legislation compiled for publication in Hong Kong e-Legislation@.....	N.A.	78 989	<b>75 039</b>
pages of Committee Stage Amendments (CSAs) proposed by the Government (English)Δ.....	189	167	<b>178</b>

## Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Estimate)
pages of CSAs proposed by the LegCo members (English)Δ.....	3	15	9
pages of CSAs proposed by the Government (Chinese)Δ .....	169	152	160
pages of CSAs proposed by the LegCo members (Chinese)Δ .....	3	13	8
drafts of bills/subsidiary legislation released .....	2 732	2 509	2 500
items of legal advice provided .....	4 972	4 504	4 500

@ The Loose-leaf Edition was completely replaced by verified copies of legislation published in Hong Kong e-Legislation in March 2025.

Δ The nature of the work is different. For CSAs proposed by the Government, Law Drafting Division has to take instructions from policy bureaux, draft the amendments and assist in their scrutiny by LegCo. For CSAs proposed by LegCo members, Law Drafting Division has to examine the amendments to make sure that they are in the correct format and liaise with the proposers to prepare the final agreed copies.

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27*

23 During 2026–27, the Law Drafting Division will:

- monitor closely the demand of LegCo regarding scrutiny of legislation; and
- make available resources needed for the legislative schedule for 2026–27, which is expected to be heavy.

### **Programme (5): International Law**

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	188.0	243.7	214.0 (–12.2%)	237.5 (+11.0%)
				(or –2.5% on 2025–26 Original)

### *Aim*

24 The aim is to provide advice on international law issues to the Government, to participate in or advise on negotiation of international agreements, to support promotion of legal co-operation with international organisations, and to handle requests for international legal co-operation efficiently.

### *Brief Description*

25 The work of the International Law Division includes:

- providing advice on all aspects of public international law, including the application to the HKSAR of multilateral and bilateral international agreements, maritime and aviation law, consular privileges and immunities, and resolution of trade disputes;
- negotiating and advising on international agreements, including those on surrender of fugitive offenders, mutual legal assistance, transfer of sentenced persons, investment promotion and protection, air services, avoidance of double taxation and tax information exchange;
- participating in the activities of international organisations such as the Hague Conference on Private International Law, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation; negotiating multilateral instruments; and fostering international co-operation;
- providing advice on the international legal aspects of the HKSAR’s laws as well as providing capacity building for local, regional and international legal talents;
- handling requests to and from the HKSAR for surrender of fugitive offenders, mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, transfer of sentenced persons and enforcement of confiscation orders as well as requests for assistance in international child abduction cases, and advising on matters involving international legal co-operation; and
- supporting the work of the Secretary for Justice’s Office.

26 In 2025, the aim of the programme was generally met and the overall performance under the programme was satisfactory.

## Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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27 The key performance measures are:

*Indicators*

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Estimate)
international agreements on legal co-operation in criminal matters initialled .....	10	8	<b>8</b>
briefings, negotiation and discussion (no. of working sessions).....	654	685	<b>685</b>
items of legal advice provided .....	42 179	48 367	<b>48 400</b>
new requests dealt with in various categories of mutual legal assistance .....	344	337	<b>340</b>
court appearances.....	63	36	<b>40</b>

*Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27*

28 During 2026–27, the International Law Division will continue to:

- provide timely and accurate advice on international law issues and on issues relating to mutual legal assistance;
- negotiate international agreements or contribute as legal advisers in these negotiations;
- participate in the activities of international organisations to foster international co-operation and organise activities with international organisations to raise Hong Kong’s international profile, and handle requests for international legal co-operation effectively; and
- organise and support capacity building activities for local, regional and international legal talents.

## Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

	2024–25 (Actual) (\$m)	2025–26 (Original) (\$m)	2025–26 (Revised) (\$m)	2026–27 (Estimate) (\$m)
<b>Programme</b>				
(1) Prosecutions .....	830.7	1,058.8	887.5	1,091.5
(2) Civil.....	671.8	848.4	673.6	852.5
(3) Constitutional and Policy Affairs.....	146.3	134.6	135.4	143.0
(4) Law Drafting.....	171.0	222.2	198.9	214.6
(5) International Law .....	188.0	243.7	214.0	237.5
	2,007.8	2,507.7	2,109.4 (–15.9%)	2,539.1 (+20.4%)
				(or +1.3% on 2025–26 Original)

#### Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

##### Programme (1)

Provision for 2026–27 is \$204.0 million (23.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is due to the anticipated increase in the provision for court costs, other charges and filling of vacancies, partly offset by the anticipated decrease in the provision for general departmental expenses. There will be a net decrease of 16 posts in 2026–27.

##### Programme (2)

Provision for 2026–27 is \$178.9 million (26.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is due to the anticipated increase in the provision for other charges, court costs and filling of vacancies, partly offset by the anticipated decrease in the provision for general departmental expenses. There will be a net decrease of nine posts in 2026–27.

##### Programme (3)

Provision for 2026–27 is \$7.6 million (5.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is due to the anticipated increase in the provision for other charges and filling of vacancies, partly offset by the anticipated decrease in the provision for general departmental expenses. There will be a net decrease of one post in 2026–27.

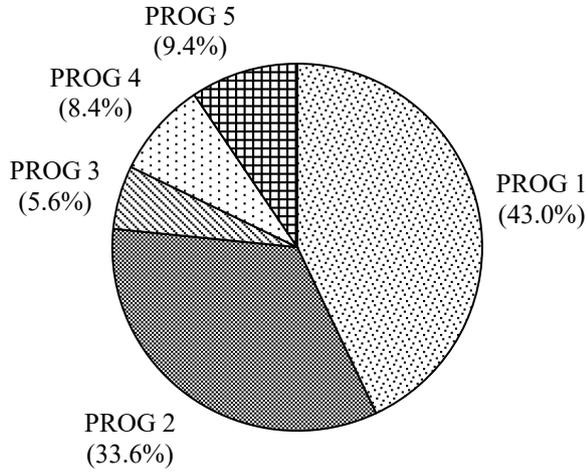
##### Programme (4)

Provision for 2026–27 is \$15.7 million (7.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is due to the anticipated increase in the provision for filling of vacancies and other charges, partly offset by the anticipated decrease in the provision for general departmental expenses. There will be a net decrease of three posts in 2026–27.

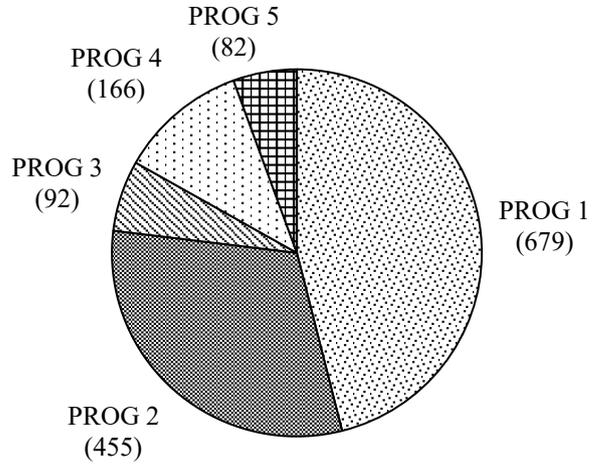
##### Programme (5)

Provision for 2026–27 is \$23.5 million (11.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is due to the anticipated increase in the provision for other charges and filling of vacancies. There will be a decrease of one post in 2026–27.

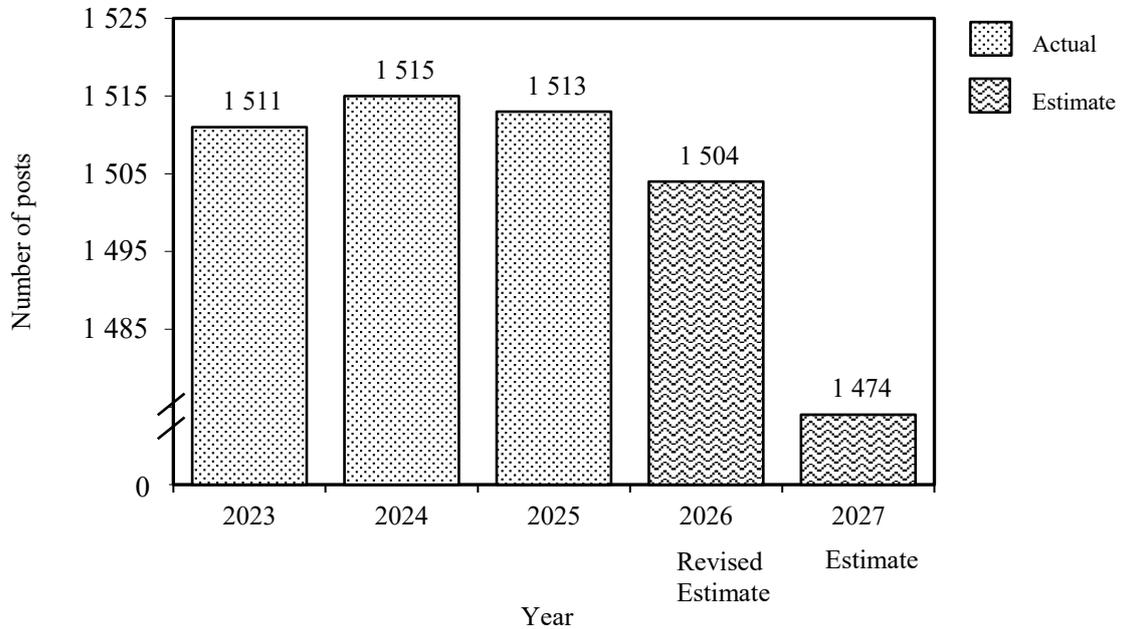
*Allocation of provision to programmes (2026-27)*



*Staff by programme (as at 31 March 2027)*



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



**Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2024–25	Approved estimate 2025–26	Revised estimate 2025–26	<b>Estimate 2026–27</b>	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	<b>\$'000</b>	
<b>Operating Account</b>					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses .....	1,873,298	2,195,880	1,962,513	<b>2,215,438</b>
234	Court costs .....	118,003	296,850	132,000	<b>306,800</b>
	Total, Recurrent.....	<u>1,991,301</u>	<u>2,492,730</u>	<u>2,094,513</u>	<u><b>2,522,238</b></u>
Non-Recurrent					
700	General non-recurrent .....	13,172	13,636	13,464	<b>13,300</b>
	Total, Non-Recurrent.....	<u>13,172</u>	<u>13,636</u>	<u>13,464</u>	<u><b>13,300</b></u>
	Total, Operating Account .....	<u>2,004,473</u>	<u>2,506,366</u>	<u>2,107,977</u>	<u><b>2,535,538</b></u>
<b>Capital Account</b>					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	3,293	1,380	1,380	<b>3,552</b>
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	<u>3,293</u>	<u>1,380</u>	<u>1,380</u>	<u><b>3,552</b></u>
	Total, Capital Account.....	<u>3,293</u>	<u>1,380</u>	<u>1,380</u>	<u><b>3,552</b></u>
	Total Expenditure .....	<u><u>2,007,766</u></u>	<u><u>2,507,746</u></u>	<u><u>2,109,357</u></u>	<u><u><b>2,539,090</b></u></u>

## Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2026–27 for the salaries and expenses of the Department of Justice is \$2,539,090,000. This represents an increase of \$429,733,000 over the revised estimate for 2025–26 and \$531,324,000 over the actual expenditure in 2024–25.

#### *Operating Account*

##### Recurrent

2 Provision of \$2,215,438,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Department of Justice. The increase of \$252,925,000 (12.9%) over the revised estimate for 2025–26 is due to the anticipated increase in the provision for other charges and filling of vacancies, partly offset by the anticipated decrease in the provision for general departmental expenses.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2026 will be 1 504 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of 30 posts in 2026–27. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2026–27 but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$1,059,670,000.

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

	2024–25 (Actual) (\$'000)	2025–26 (Original) (\$'000)	2025–26 (Revised) (\$'000)	2026–27 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries.....	1,093,652	1,142,749	1,113,602	<b>1,156,938</b>
- Allowances.....	41,121	45,785	50,327	<b>55,541</b>
- Job-related allowances.....	6	50	17	<b>30</b>
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	3,393	3,857	3,242	<b>2,491</b>
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	101,533	131,178	116,599	<b>141,163</b>
- Disturbance allowance.....	261	140	221	<b>194</b>
Departmental Expenses				
- Remuneration for special appointments ....	12,013	14,900	13,900	<b>14,900</b>
- General departmental expenses .....	358,619	383,281	395,429	<b>375,062</b>
Other Charges				
- Hire of legal services and related professional fees .....	161,660	265,740	158,000	<b>250,200</b>
- Promotion and development of Hong Kong as an international legal and dispute resolution services centre in the Asia-Pacific Region.....	82,286	130,200	96,176	<b>135,819</b>
- Legal services for construction dispute resolution .....	18,754	78,000	15,000	<b>83,100</b>
	1,873,298	2,195,880	1,962,513	<b>2,215,438</b>

5 Provision of \$306,800,000 under *Subhead 234 Court costs* is for the payment of costs awarded against the Government in criminal and civil cases. This represents an increase of \$174,800,000 (132.4%) over the revised estimate for 2025–26. Since payment of court costs is contingent upon the progress of the relevant negotiations, the level of payment varies from year to year.

#### *Capital Account*

##### Plant, Equipment and Works

6 Provision of \$3,552,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents an increase of \$2,172,000 (157.4%) over the revised estimate for 2025–26. This reflects the increased requirement for carrying out projects that are related to minor plant, vehicles and equipment.

## Head 92 — DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2025	Revised estimated expenditure for 2025–26	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b><i>Operating Account</i></b>						
700		<i>General non-recurrent</i>				
	519	Development of Mainland-related legal services in Hong Kong.....	4,335	2,835	300	1,200
	801	One-off funding support for the development and enhancement of an online dispute resolution and deal making platform by a non-governmental organisation .....	100,000	74,000	13,000	13,000
		Total .....	<u>104,335</u>	<u>76,835</u>	<u>13,300</u>	<u>14,200</u>