

## Head 135 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY BUREAU

**Controlling officer:** the Permanent Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry will account for expenditure under this Head.

**Estimate 2026–27** ..... **\$342.7m**

**Establishment ceiling 2026–27** (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 69 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2026 reducing by one post to 68 posts as at 31 March 2027... **\$51.8m**

In addition, there will be an estimated nine directorate posts as at 31 March 2026 and 31 March 2027.

**Commitment balance**..... **\$50.0m**

### Controlling Officer's Report

#### Programmes

**Programme (1) Director of Bureau's Office** This programme contributes to Policy Area 27: Intra-Governmental Services (Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry).

**Programme (2) Innovation, Technology and Industry** This programme contributes to Policy Area 17: Information Technology and Broadcasting (Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry).

#### Detail

##### Programme (1): Director of Bureau's Office

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	<b>2026–27 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	22.2	24.3	24.2 (–0.4%)	<b>24.3</b> (+0.4%)
				(or same as 2025–26 Original)

#### *Aim*

2 The aim is to ensure the smooth operation of the Office of the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry.

#### *Brief Description*

3 The Office of the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry is responsible for providing support to the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry 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 Innovation, Technology and Industry 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.

##### Programme (2): Innovation, Technology and Industry

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	<b>2026–27 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	196.7	245.4	225.8 (–8.0%)	<b>318.4</b> (+41.0%)
				(or +29.7% on 2025–26 Original)

#### *Aim*

4 The aim is to promote sustained and diversified economic and social development through developing local innovation and technology industries, driving the upgrading and transformation of the overall economic structure, thereby enhancing Hong Kong's competitiveness and improving people's quality of life.

***Brief Description***

5 The Bureau formulates holistic innovation and technology policies to foster the development of innovation and technology and related industries in Hong Kong.

6 The Bureau's main responsibilities are to:

- promote research and development (R&D) collaboration with the world's top-notch science and research institutes;
- promote "new industrialisation" through the development of smart production and industries of strategic importance;
- facilitate leading innovation and technology enterprises or those with potential to develop, set up or expand their businesses in Hong Kong;
- promote measures that support technology start-ups;
- develop innovation and technology infrastructure;
- encourage private sector investments in innovation and technology industries;
- foster digital government and smart city development;
- promote the innovative application of technologies in improving people's daily life and addressing social issues;
- formulate policies to support the use of local technology products and services;
- formulate policies to augment the pool of innovation and technology talents; and
- encourage collaboration among institutions in developing innovation and technology.

7 In 2025–26, the Bureau:

- continued to take forward the major policies under four broad development directions as set out in the Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Development Blueprint;
- continued to facilitate leading innovation and technology enterprises or those with potential to develop, set up or expand their businesses in Hong Kong;
- continued to develop Hong Kong into an international innovation and technology centre under the "Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035";
- continued to take forward the development of Hong Kong Park (also known as Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park) of the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone (Hetao Co-operation Zone), including the opening of the Hong Kong Park in December 2025;
- collaborated with Shenzhen Municipal People's Government (SMPG) to promote the development of the "one zone, two parks" of the Hetao Co-operation Zone, which comprises the Hong Kong Park and the Shenzhen Park;
- continued to take forward the industry planning of the development of new land for innovation and technology use in the San Tin Technopole and published the Conceptual Outline of the Development Plan for the Innovation and Technology Industry in the San Tin Technopole;
- continued to take forward the planning of the development of innovation and technology site earmarked for data facility cluster and related purposes in Sandy Ridge in the North District;
- continued to implement the "Global STEM Professorship Scheme" to strengthen support for local universities to attract world-renowned Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) scholars to work in Hong Kong;
- continued to oversee the work of InnoHK research clusters in the Hong Kong Science Park to foster international R&D collaboration;
- oversaw the implementation of the "Frontier Technology Research Support Scheme" to attract international top-notch researchers in frontier technology fields to conduct basic research in Hong Kong;
- continued to monitor the implementation of enhanced tax deduction for expenditure incurred by enterprises on qualified R&D activities;
- oversaw the operation of the "Technology Talent Admission Scheme" to facilitate enterprises' engagement of overseas and Mainland R&D talents;
- oversaw the implementation of the "New Industrialisation Funding Scheme" and the "New Industrialisation Acceleration Scheme" to expedite "new industrialisation";
- commenced a study on the medium to long-term development plan of new industrialisation in Hong Kong;

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- continued to implement the “TechConnect (block vote)” to support government departments in planning and implementing technology projects, with a view to enhancing operational efficiency, quality of public services, as well as capability to safeguard public safety;
- continued to monitor the implementation of funding schemes and support programmes under the “Innovation and Technology Fund”;
- continued to monitor the implementation of the “Innovation and Technology Venture Fund” to stimulate private investment in local innovation and technology start-ups;
- prepared for setting up the Innovation and Technology Industry-Oriented Fund (ITIF) to channel more market capital to invest in specified emerging and future industries of strategic importance;
- continued to oversee the implementation of the “Research, Academic and Industry Sectors One-plus Scheme” to incentivise collaboration among industry, academic and research sectors and promote the transformation and commercialisation of R&D outcomes from universities;
- enhanced the external promotion and publication of the development of innovation and technology and “new industrialisation” in Hong Kong, and the explanation of relevant policy measures, so as to tell good stories of innovation and technology in Hong Kong together with other government bureaux and departments (B/Ds);
- continued to leverage on the platform of “Hong Kong New Industrialisation Development Alliance” for the collaboration among the Government, industry, academia, R&D and investment sectors;
- collaborated with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology to follow up on the relevant work of the Co-operation Agreement on the Development of New Quality Productive Forces and the Promotion of New Industrialisation;
- oversaw the work of the Digital Policy Office (DPO) in formulating digital policies and fostering digital government development, strengthening digital infrastructure and security, and supporting data-driven and artificial intelligence (AI) applications;
- continued to monitor the implementation of various smart city initiatives, including the “iAM Smart” and the “Digital Corporate Identity” (“CorpID”) Platforms;
- monitored the work of Cyberport in respect of promoting digital technology and development of AI ecosystem;
- monitored the preparation for the establishment of the Hong Kong Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Institute to advance the R&D and industry applications of AI;
- oversaw the work of the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) in promoting innovation and technology development;
- promoted collaboration with Mainland and overseas science and research institutions;
- continued to provide support to local universities and research institutes to develop facilities for scientific research including overseeing the preparation work of setting up of the life and health technology research institute(s);
- continued to promote the orderly and safe cross-boundary data flow in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area); and
- provided secretariat support to the Committee on Innovation, Technology and Industry Development.

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

8 During 2026–27, the Bureau will:

- continue to develop Hong Kong into an international innovation and technology centre;
- continue to press ahead with the development of Hong Kong Park of Hetao Co-operation Zone as set out in the Development Outline for Hong Kong Park of Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone;
- together with SMPG, continue to promote the development of the Hetao Co-operation Zone; and monitor the operation of the Shenzhen branch of Hong Kong Science Park in Shenzhen Park;
- continue to take forward the development of new land for innovation and technology use in the San Tin Technopole according to the Conceptual Outline of the Development Plan for the Innovation and Technology Industry in the San Tin Technopole;
- continue to take forward the development of innovation and technology site earmarked for data facility cluster and related industries purposes in Sandy Ridge in the North District;

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- continue to actively promote Hong Kong's new opportunities to the Mainland and overseas, including facilitating leading innovation and technology enterprises or those with potential to develop, set up or expand their businesses in Hong Kong and top-notch innovation and technology talents to bring with them their business or R&D outcomes to Hong Kong;
- continue to oversee the work of InnoHK research clusters in the Hong Kong Science Park to foster collaboration with international science and research institutions and oversee the preparation for the establishment of the third InnoHK cluster;
- continue to monitor the implementation of the "Frontier Technology Research Support Scheme";
- continue to oversee the implementation of the "New Industrialisation Funding Scheme" and the "New Industrialisation Acceleration Scheme" to expedite "new industrialisation";
- continue to oversee the increase in the supply of advanced manufacturing space in InnoParks;
- continue the study on the medium to long-term development plan of new industrialisation in Hong Kong;
- continue to leverage on the platform of "Hong Kong New Industrialisation Development Alliance" for the collaboration among the Government, industry, academia, R&D and investment sectors;
- continue to oversee the implementation of the "City Innovation and Technology Grand Challenge";
- continue to monitor the implementation of enhanced tax deduction for expenditure incurred by enterprises on qualified R&D activities;
- continue to monitor the implementation of the "Technology Talent Admission Scheme";
- continue to monitor the implementation of funding schemes and support programmes under the "Innovation and Technology Fund";
- continue to monitor the implementation of the "Innovation and Technology Venture Fund";
- set up the ITIF to channel more market capital to invest in specified emerging and future industries of strategic importance;
- continue to facilitate innovation and technology start-ups;
- continue to monitor the implementation of the "Research, Academic and Industry Sectors One-plus Scheme";
- continue to provide secretariat support to the Committee on Innovation, Technology and Industry Development;
- continue to collaborate with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology to follow up on the relevant work of the Co-operation Agreement on the Development of New Quality Productive Forces and the Promotion of New Industrialisation;
- collaborate with the Department of Industry and Information Technology of Guangdong Province during the period of "15th Five-Year Plan" to promote co-operation between Guangdong and Hong Kong in advancing new industrialisation;
- continue to oversee the work of the DPO in formulating digital policies and implementation of relevant work relating to the development of digital government, promotion of AI and strengthening of data governance and information security;
- continue to monitor the work of enhancing "iAM Smart" and its function as a "one-stop" electronic government platform, as well as the work of developing the "CorpID" Platform;
- continue to promote the adoption of innovation and technology by B/Ds through the Smart Government Innovation Lab and the "TechConnect (block vote)";
- continue to monitor Cyberport's implementation of various initiatives to support the information and communications technology industry, development of the AI ecosystem, and digital transformation of different sectors;
- oversee the establishment of the Hong Kong Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Institute;
- collaborate with innovation & technology bodies, tertiary institutions and enterprises to promote courses and activities on the use of AI;
- continue to implement facilitation measures to promote cross-boundary data flow within the Greater Bay Area;
- continue to support local universities and research institutes to develop facilities for scientific research, including overseeing the work for taking forward the setting up of the life and health technology research institute(s); and
- continue to take forward the planning of the development of new sites earmarked for innovation and technology uses.

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**ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION**

	2024–25 (Actual) (\$m)	2025–26 (Original) (\$m)	2025–26 (Revised) (\$m)	2026–27 (Estimate) (\$m)
<b>Programme</b>				
(1) Director of Bureau’s Office .....	22.2	24.3	24.2	24.3
(2) Innovation, Technology and Industry ...	196.7	245.4	225.8	318.4
	218.9¶	269.7	250.0 (–7.3%)	342.7 (+37.1%)
				<b>(or +27.1% on 2025–26 Original)</b>

¶ For comparison purpose, the figure is adjusted to exclude the actual expenditure for the then Efficiency Office (original Programme (3) under this Head) which was transferred to Head 47 — Government Secretariat: Digital Policy Office with effect from 25 July 2024 due to the re-organisation of the then Office of the Government Chief Information Officer and the then Efficiency Office for the establishment of the DPO.

**Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision**

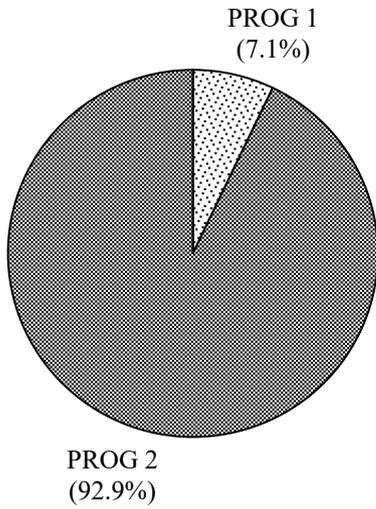
**Programme (1)**

Provision for 2026–27 is \$0.1 million (0.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the increased provision for personal emoluments.

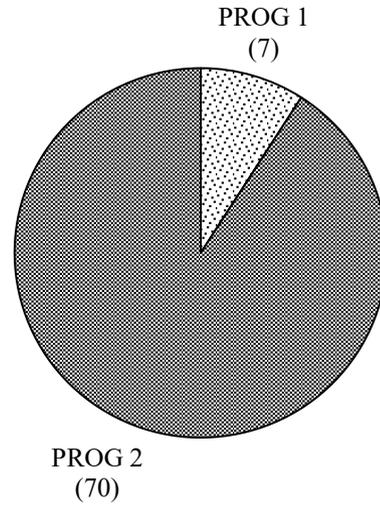
**Programme (2)**

Provision for 2026–27 is \$92.6 million (41.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for general non-recurrent expenses related to the promotion of courses and activities associated with the use of AI, the TechConnect (block vote) and provision for departmental expenses. There will be a net decrease of one post in 2026–27.

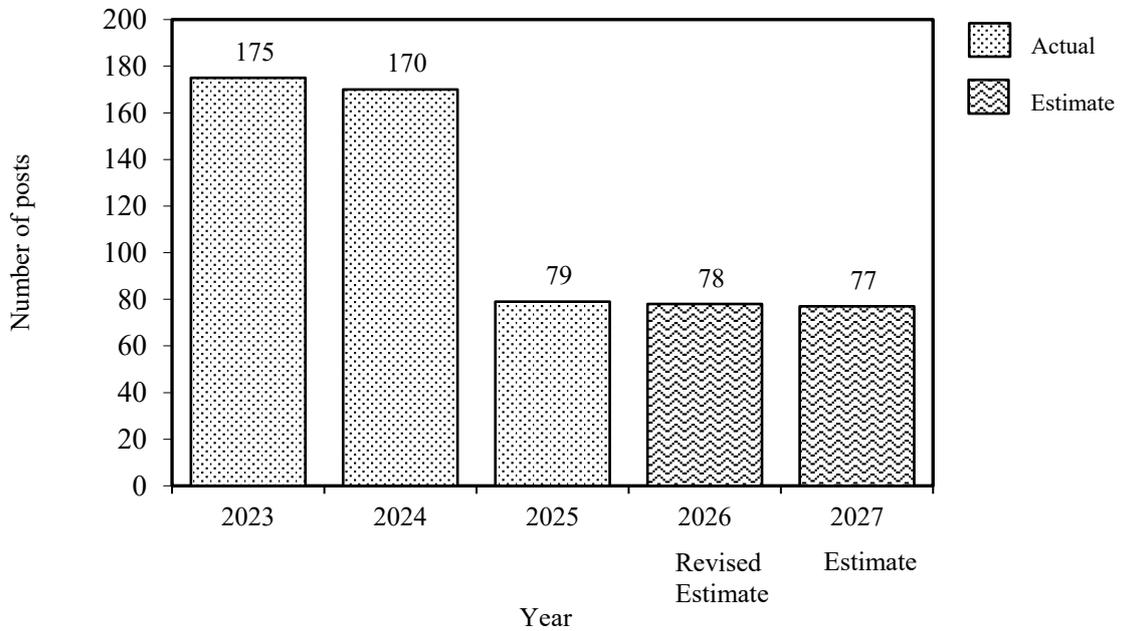
*Allocation of provision to programmes (2026-27)*



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



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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2024–25	Approved estimate 2025–26	Revised estimate 2025–26	Estimate 2026–27	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
<b>Operating Account</b>					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses .....	235,829	175,587	172,041	<b>207,219</b>
	Total, Recurrent.....	235,829 <sup>Δ</sup>	175,587	172,041	<b>207,219</b>
Non-Recurrent					
700	General non-recurrent .....	—	—	—	<b>30,000</b>
	Total, Non-Recurrent.....	—	—	—	<b>30,000</b>
	Total, Operating Account .....	235,829	175,587	172,041	<b>237,219</b>
<b>Capital Account</b>					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
697	TechConnect (block vote).....	78,779	94,144	77,987	<b>105,435</b>
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	78,779	94,144	77,987	<b>105,435</b>
	Total, Capital Account.....	78,779	94,144	77,987	<b>105,435</b>
	Total Expenditure .....	314,608	269,731	250,028	<b>342,654</b>

Δ With effect from 25 July 2024, the DPO was established upon the re-organisation of the then Office of the Government Chief Information Officer and the then Efficiency Office (original Programme (3) under this head). The figure includes actual expenditure for the then Efficiency Office up to 24 July 2024 before re-organisation.

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### Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2026–27 for the salaries and expenses of the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau (ITIB) is \$342,654,000. This represents an increase of \$92,626,000 over the revised estimate for 2025–26 and \$28,046,000 over the actual expenditure in 2024–25.

#### *Operating Account*

##### Recurrent

2 Provision of \$207,219,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of ITIB. The increase of \$35,178,000 (20.4%) over the revised estimate for 2025–26 is mainly due to the increased provision for personal emoluments and departmental expenses.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2026 will be 78 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of one post 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 \$51,771,000.

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.....	100,558	73,863	73,783	76,906
- Allowances.....	2,860	1,526	2,333	2,050
- Job-related allowances.....	2	3	2	3
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	212	139	165	129
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	9,489	8,957	7,918	8,873
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses .....	122,708	91,099	87,840	119,258
	235,829	175,587	172,041	207,219

#### *Capital Account*

##### Plant, Equipment and Works

5 Provision of \$105,435,000 under *Subhead 697 TechConnect (block vote)* represents an increase of \$27,448,000 (35.2%) over the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the increased funding support to bureaux and departments for implementing projects costing above \$200,000 but not exceeding \$10 million each with a view to improving the quality, efficiency or effectiveness of public services by the adoption of technology or to making use of technology to improve operations that will bring benefits to members of the public.

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**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>				
	804	Promote courses and activities related to the use of artificial intelligenceλ.....	50,000λ	—	—	50,000
		Total .....	<u>50,000</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>50,000</u>

λ This is a new item, funding for which is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2026.