

## Head 163 — REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE

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

**Estimate 2026–27** ..... **\$1,175.3m**

**Establishment ceiling 2026–27** (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 312 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2026 reducing by 14 posts to 298 posts as at 31 March 2027..... **\$203.4m**

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

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### Controlling Officer's Report

#### Programme

##### Electoral Services

This programme contributes to Policy Area 28: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs).

#### Detail

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	<b>2026–27 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	663.4	1,825.3	1,538.7 (–15.7%)	<b>1,175.3</b> (–23.6%)
				(or –35.6% on 2025–26 Original)

#### Aim

**2** The aim is to provide the Electoral Affairs Commission with administrative support for the effective discharge of its statutory functions under the Electoral Affairs Commission Ordinance (Cap. 541) to ensure that elections are conducted in an open, honest and fair manner.

#### Brief Description

**3** The Registration and Electoral Office (REO), under the direction of the Electoral Affairs Commission, implements the decisions of the Commission in relation to:

- the review and delineation of Legislative Council geographical constituencies and District Council geographical constituencies;
- the registration of electors, voters and ex-officio members of the Election Committee; and
- the conduct and supervision of elections.

**4** During 2025–26, the REO provided the Electoral Affairs Commission with administrative support to accomplish a number of major tasks, including:

- the conduct of a voter registration exercise;
- the publication of registers of electors/voters for geographical constituencies, functional constituencies and Election Committee subsectors;
- the conduct of checks on electors in the current registers in respect of their registered addresses/registration eligibilities;
- the review of subsidiary legislation on voter registration and electoral arrangements;
- the updating of the register of members of the Election Committee;
- the review and delineation of geographical constituencies for the 2025 Legislative Council General Election;
- the issue of the supplementary information to guidelines for the 2025 Rural By-election and the 2025 Election Committee Subsector By-elections, and the issue of guidelines for the 2025 Legislative Council General Election;
- the conduct and supervision of the 2025 Rural By-election, the 2025 Election Committee Subsector By-elections and the 2025 Legislative Council General Election;

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- the submission of reports to the Chief Executive on the 2025 Rural By-election, the 2025 Election Committee Subsector By-elections and the 2025 Legislative Council General Election; and
- the annual registration of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers.

5 The key performance measures are:

### *Targets*

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Plan)
to conduct annual exercise for			
voter registration .....	1	1	1
updating records of the registered electors .....	1	1	1
to conduct			
Legislative Council General Election .....	—	1	—
Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections .....	—	—	1
Election Committee Subsector By-elections.....	—	1	—
to issue notification of election arrangements to electors			
ten days before the poll (%)^ .....	—	100	100
to respond to telephone enquiries on election arrangements			
on polling days within two minutes (%).....	—	100	100
to complete initial processing of an elector registration or			
updating of an elector record within 14 days (%) .....	100	100	100
to complete initial processing actions on election-related			
complaints within five working days (%).....	100	100	100
to submit recommendations to the Chief Executive on the			
delineation of			
geographical constituencies for the 2025 Legislative			
Council General Election .....	—	13 Jun	—
District Council geographical constituencies for the			
2027 District Council Ordinary Election.....	—	—	<b>on or before 9 Dec</b>
to submit to the Chief Executive a report on matters			
relating to			
the 2023 District Council Ordinary Election .....	8 Mar	—	—
the 2024 Rural By-election .....	—	28 Feb	—
the 2025 Rural By-election .....	—	22 Jul	—
the 2025 Election Committee Subsector By-elections....	—	5 Dec	—
the 2025 Legislative Council General Election .....	—	—	<b>on or before 6 Mar</b>

^ Five days before the poll for the Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections and Election Committee Subsector By-elections.

### *Indicators*

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Estimate)
no. of new electors registered#.....	21 039	38 302	30 000
no. of elector records updated# .....	153 121	124 290	140 000

# Figure appeared or expected to appear in the final registers of electors of the relevant year.

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

6 During 2026–27, the REO will continue providing the Electoral Affairs Commission with administrative support in connection with its work, which includes:

- the conduct of checks on electors in the current registers in respect of their registered particulars;
- the compilation and publication of interim/final register of members of the Election Committee;
- the issue of guidelines for the 2026 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections, the 2027 Rural Ordinary Election and the 2027 Chief Executive Election;
- the conduct and supervision of the 2026 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections, the 2027 Rural Ordinary Election and the 2027 Chief Executive Election; and
- the review and delineation of District Council geographical constituencies for the 2027 District Council Ordinary Election.

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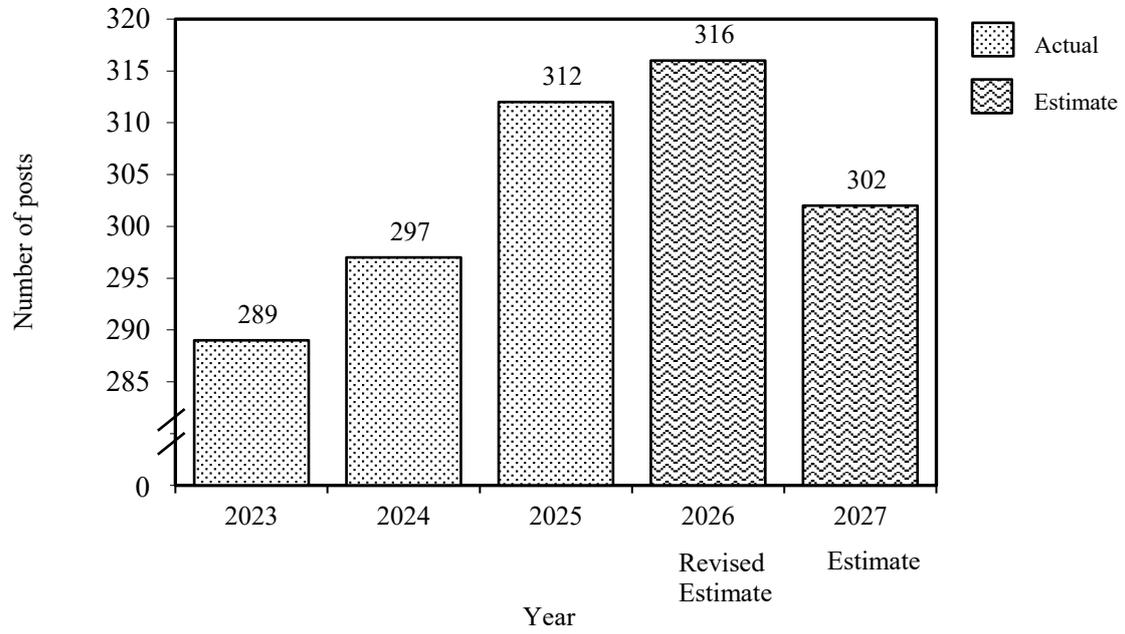
### ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

	2024–25 (Actual) (\$m)	2025–26 (Original) (\$m)	2025–26 (Revised) (\$m)	2026–27 (Estimate) (\$m)
<b>Programme</b>				
Electoral Services.....	663.4	1,825.3	1,538.7 (–15.7%)	<b>1,175.3</b> <b>(–23.6%)</b>
				<b>(or –35.6% on 2025–26 Original)</b>

#### Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2026–27 is \$363.4 million (23.6%) lower than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the decreased requirements upon completion of the 2025 Election Committee Subsector By-elections and the 2025 Legislative Council General Election, partly offset by the increased requirements for the conduct of the 2026 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections and the 2027 Chief Executive Election, and the preparation of the 2027 District Council Ordinary Election, etc. There will also be a net decrease of 14 posts in 2026–27.

*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	<b>Estimate 2026–27</b>	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	<b>\$'000</b>	
<b>Operating Account</b>					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses .....	663,370	1,825,342	1,538,673	<b>1,175,272</b>
	Total, Recurrent.....	<u>663,370</u>	<u>1,825,342</u>	<u>1,538,673</u>	<b><u>1,175,272</u></b>
	Total, Operating Account .....	<u>663,370</u>	<u>1,825,342</u>	<u>1,538,673</u>	<b><u>1,175,272</u></b>
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	Total Expenditure .....	<u>663,370</u>	<u>1,825,342</u>	<u>1,538,673</u>	<b><u>1,175,272</u></b>

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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 Registration and Electoral Office (REO) is \$1,175,272,000. This represents a decrease of \$363,401,000 against the revised estimate for 2025–26 and an increase of \$511,902,000 over the actual expenditure in 2024–25.

#### Operating Account

#### Recurrent

**2** Provision of \$1,175,272,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the REO. The decrease of \$363,401,000 (23.6%) against the revised estimate for 2025–26 is mainly due to the decreased requirements upon completion of the 2025 Election Committee Subsector By-elections and the 2025 Legislative Council General Election, partly offset by the increased requirements for the conduct of the 2026 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections and the 2027 Chief Executive Election, and the preparation of the 2027 District Council Ordinary Election, etc.

**3** The establishment as at 31 March 2026 will be 316 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of 14 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 \$203,439,000.

**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)	<b>2026–27 (Estimate) (\$'000)</b>
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries.....	181,223	194,956	196,695	<b>198,715</b>
- Allowances.....	7,272	6,655	6,373	<b>5,314</b>
- Job-related allowances.....	—	—	2	—
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	498	525	504	<b>302</b>
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	17,244	20,721	20,509	<b>21,930</b>
Departmental Expenses				
- Honoraria for members of committees .....	480	480	480	<b>480</b>
- General departmental expenses .....	52,762	70,654	55,522	<b>69,052</b>
Other Charges				
- Election expenses.....	403,891	1,531,351	1,258,588	<b>879,479</b>
	663,370	1,825,342	1,538,673	<b>1,175,272</b>