

Head 163 — REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE

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

Estimate 2016–17 **\$1,114.3m**

Establishment ceiling 2016–17 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 257 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2016 rising by six posts to 263 posts as at 31 March 2017 **\$131.2m**

In addition, there will be an estimated two directorate posts as at 31 March 2016 and as at 31 March 2017.

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

	2014–15 (Actual)	2015–16 (Original)	2015–16 (Revised)	2016–17 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	180.0	743.8	503.6 (–32.3%)	1,114.3 (+121.3%)
				(or +49.8% on 2015–16 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 openly, honestly and fairly.

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 geographical constituencies for the Legislative Council and District Council constituencies,
- the registration of electors, and
- the conduct and supervision of elections.

4 During 2015–16, 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 for geographical constituencies, functional constituencies and Election Committee subsectors;
- the enhancement of checking of electors in the current register in respect of their registered addresses;
- the conduct of cross-matching exercise with other government departments on electors' registration particulars;
- publicity measures to remind electors to update their addresses with REO;
- the review and amendment of subsidiary legislation on electoral arrangements for elections;
- the issuing of guidelines for the conduct of the 2015 District Council ordinary election;
- the conduct and supervision of the 2015 District Council ordinary election, one District Council by-election and one Legislative Council by-election;
- the supervision of the conduct of Rural by-elections;
- the submission of reports to the Chief Executive on the 2015 Rural ordinary election, the 2015 District Council ordinary election, one District Council by-election and two Rural by-elections;
- the submission of recommendations to the Chief Executive on the delineation of geographical constituencies for the 2016 Legislative Council general election;

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- the preparatory work for the conduct of the 2016 Legislative Council general election and the 2016 Election Committee subsector elections; and
- the registration of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers for use in the Legislative Council and District Council elections.

5 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Plan)
to conduct annual exercise for			
voter registration	1	1	1
updating records of the registered electors	1	1	1
to organise			
District Council ordinary election	—	1	—
District Council by-election	4	1	—‡
Legislative Council general election	—	—	1
Legislative Council by-election	—	—	1‡
Election Committee subsector elections	—	—	1
to issue notification of election arrangements to electors			
ten days before the poll (%).....	100	100	100
to respond to telephone enquiries on election arrangements			
on polling days within two minutes (%).....	100	100	100
to complete 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			
constituencies for the 2015 District Council ordinary			
election	on 5 Nov	—	—
geographical constituencies for the 2016 Legislative			
Council general election	—	on 28 Aug	—
to submit to the Chief Executive a report on matters			
relating to			
the Village Representative by-elections.....	on 10 Mar & 15 Aug & 30 Dec	—	—
a by-election of the Yau Tsim Mong District Council			
King's Park Constituency.....	on 24 Jan	—	—
a by-election of the Southern District Council			
South Horizons West Constituency	on 20 Jun	—	—
by-elections of the Islands District Council			
Tung Chung North Constituency.....	on 25 Jul	—	—
Peng Chau and Hei Ling Chau Constituency	on 5 Dec	—	—
a by-election of the Eastern District Council			
Nam Fung Constituency.....	on 15 Aug	—	—
the 2015 Rural ordinary election	—	on 24 Apr	—
the Rural by-elections	—	on 11 Sep	on or before 4 Mar & 26 Aug
a by-election of the Tai Po District Council			
San Fu Constituency.....	—	on 15 Oct	—
the 2015 District Council ordinary election	—	—	on or before 22 Feb
a by-election of the Legislative Council			
New Territories East Geographical Constituency	—	—	on or before 27 May in Dec
the 2016 Legislative Council general election	—	—	—

‡ By-elections will be conducted as and when necessary.

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Indicators

	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Actual)	2016 (Estimate)
no. of new electors registered#.....	78 837	267 886	140 000
no. of elector records updated@.....	124 422	421 712	210 000

Figure appeared or expected to appear in the Final Registers of the relevant year. It excludes the number of new electors registered for the District Council (second) functional constituency as they are mostly registered in the geographical constituencies at the same time.

@ Figure appeared or expected to appear in the Final Registers of the relevant year.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2016–17

6 During 2016–17, the REO will continue to provide the Electoral Affairs Commission with administrative support in connection with its work, which includes:

- the conduct of a voter registration exercise, including updating the registers of electors and the related publicity measures to encourage eligible persons (including young persons in particular) to register as electors;
- the conduct of checks on electors in the current register in respect of their registered particulars, including cross-matching exercise with other government departments;
- the review of overall electoral arrangements with a view to providing better services to electors and candidates in future elections;
- the making of subsidiary legislation on electoral arrangements for elections as necessary;
- the issuing of guidelines for the conduct of the 2016 Legislative Council general election, the 2016 Election Committee subsector elections and the 2017 Chief Executive election;
- the conduct and supervision of the 2016 Legislative Council general election, the 2016 Election Committee subsector elections and the 2017 Chief Executive election;
- the supervision of the conduct of Rural by-elections;
- the submission of reports to the Chief Executive on the 2016 Legislative Council general election and the by-elections;
- the registration of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers for use in the Legislative Council and District Council elections; and
- the conduct and supervision of by-elections to the Legislative Council and District Councils, if any.

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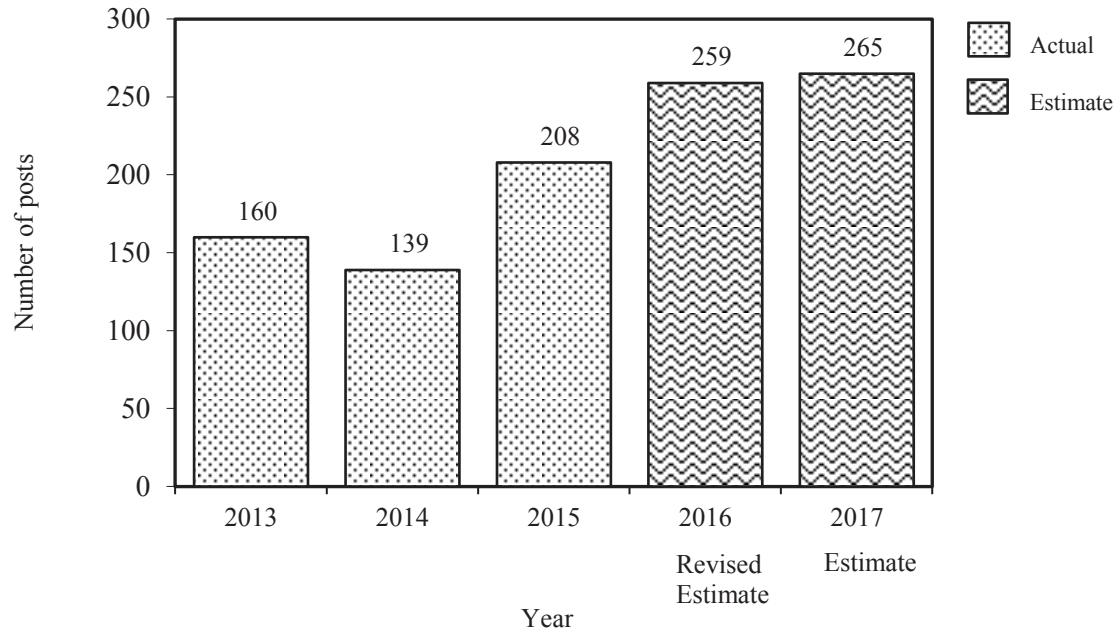
ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2014–15 (Actual) (\$m)	2015–16 (Original) (\$m)	2015–16 (Revised) (\$m)	2016–17 (Estimate) (\$m)
Electoral Services	180.0	743.8	503.6 (–32.3%)	1,114.3 (+121.3%)
				(or +49.8% on 2015–16 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2016–17 is \$610.7 million (121.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2015–16. This is mainly due to increased requirements for the conduct of the 2016 Legislative Council general election, the 2016 Election Committee subsector elections and the 2017 Chief Executive election, partly offset by the reduction in requirements for the 2015 District Council ordinary election. A total of six posts will be created in 2016–17 for undertaking election-related duties.

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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2014-15	Approved estimate 2015-16	Revised estimate 2015-16	Estimate 2016-17	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	179,971	743,819	503,576	1,113,685
	Total, Recurrent.....	179,971	743,819	503,576	1,113,685
	Total, Operating Account	179,971	743,819	503,576	1,113,685
Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	—	—	—	600
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	—	—	—	600
	Total, Capital Account.....	—	—	—	600
	 Total Expenditure	 179,971	 743,819	 503,576	 1,114,285

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2016–17 for the salaries and expenses of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) is \$1,114,285,000. This represents an increase of \$610,709,000 over the revised estimate for 2015–16 and \$934,314,000 over the actual expenditure in 2014–15.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$1,113,685,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the REO. The increase of \$610,109,000 (121.2%) over the revised estimate for 2015–16 is mainly due to increased requirements for the conduct of the 2016 Legislative Council general election, the 2016 Election Committee subsector elections and the 2017 Chief Executive election, partly offset by the reduction in requirements for the 2015 District Council ordinary election.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2016 will be 259 posts including one supernumerary post. It is expected that six posts will be created in 2016–17. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2016–17, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$131,180,000.

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

	2014–15 (Actual) (\$'000)	2015–16 (Original) (\$'000)	2015–16 (Revised) (\$'000)	2016–17 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries.....	68,850	123,115	104,007	120,126
- Allowances.....	1,775	2,474	3,469	3,386
- Job-related allowances.....	1	—	—	—
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	375	390	954	256
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	1,916	3,042	3,742	6,404
Departmental Expenses				
- Honoraria for members of committees	480	480	480	480
- General departmental expenses	19,166	20,268	18,416	19,646
Other Charges				
- Election expenses.....	87,408	594,050	372,508	963,387
	179,971	743,819	503,576	1,113,685

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

5 Provision of \$600,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* is for the replacement of a document folding and insertion system.