

Head 163 — REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE

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

Estimate 2021–22 **\$2,492.5m**

Establishment ceiling 2021–22 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 296 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2021 rising by 14 posts to 310 posts as at 31 March 2022..... **\$196.5m**

In addition, there will be an estimated two directorate posts as at 31 March 2021 and as at 31 March 2022.

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

	2019–20 (Actual)	2020–21 (Original)	2020–21 (Revised)	2021–22 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	738.1	1,491.6	725.5 (–51.4%)	2,492.5 (+243.6%)
				(or +67.1% on 2020–21 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 2020–21, 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 conduct of checks on 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 the REO with provision of address proofs as appropriate;
- the review of subsidiary legislation on voter registration and electoral arrangements;
- the preparatory work (including the issue of guidelines) for the 2020 Legislative Council General Election which was discontinued in light of the Chief Executive-in-Council's decision to postpone the election owing to the severe COVID-19 epidemic situation in Hong Kong;
- the submission of the report to the Chief Executive on the discontinued 2020 Legislative Council General Election;
- the updating of guidelines for the conduct of the 2021 Legislative Council General Election, the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections and the 2022 Chief Executive Election;

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- the preparatory work for the 2021 Legislative Council General Election and the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary 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

	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Actual)	2021 (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	2	—	— [‡]
Legislative Council General Election ^Δ	—	—	1
Legislative Council by-election	—	—	— [‡]
Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections	—	—	1
to issue notification of election arrangements to electors			
ten days before the poll (%) ^Λ	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	99.9	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 2020			
Legislative Council General Election (discontinued)	on 3 Sep	—	—
to submit to the Chief Executive a report on matters			
relating to			
the Rural by-elections	on 4 Jan & 13 Sep	on 10 Feb	—
by-election of the Yau Tsim Mong District Council			
Tai Nan Constituency	on 24 Jun	—	—
by-election of the Yuen Long District Council			
Shap Pat Heung West Constituency and San Tin			
Constituency	on 14 Oct	—	—
by-election of the Legislative Council Kowloon West			
Geographical Constituency	on 25 Feb	—	—
the 2019 Rural Ordinary Election	on 18 Apr	—	—
the 2019 District Council Ordinary Election	—	on 24 Feb	—
the 2020 Legislative Council General			
Election (discontinued)	—	on 9 Oct	—
the 2021 Legislative Council General Election	—	—	on or before 3 Dec

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

^Δ Amid the severe COVID-19 epidemic situation, the Chief Executive-in-Council decided to postpone the 2020 Legislative Council General Election, originally scheduled for 6 September 2020, for a year to 5 September 2021, in order to protect public safety and public health as well as ensure that elections are conducted openly and fairly.

^Λ Five days for the Election Committee Subsector elections.

Indicators

	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Estimate)
no. of new electors registered#	401 429	464 796	307 000
no. of elector records updated@	488 858	1 080 375	747 400

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 2021–22

6 During 2021–22, 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 to register as electors and to remind electors applying for change of registered addresses about the requirement of submitting address proofs;
- the conduct of checks on electors in the current registers in respect of their registered particulars, including cross-matching exercise with other government departments;
- the review of overall electoral arrangements with a view to making improvements in future elections;
- the making of subsidiary legislation on voter registration and electoral arrangements as necessary;
- the updating and issue of guidelines for the conduct of the 2021 Legislative Council General Election, the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections and the 2022 Chief Executive Election;
- the conduct and supervision of the 2021 Legislative Council General Election, the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections and the 2022 Chief Executive Election;
- the conduct and supervision of the Legislative Council and District Council by-elections and the supervision of the conduct of Rural by-elections, if any;
- the submission of reports to the Chief Executive on the 2021 Legislative Council General Election and other by-elections, if any;
- the updating of guidelines for the conduct of the 2023 Rural Ordinary Election; and
- the registration of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers for use in the Legislative Council and District Council elections.

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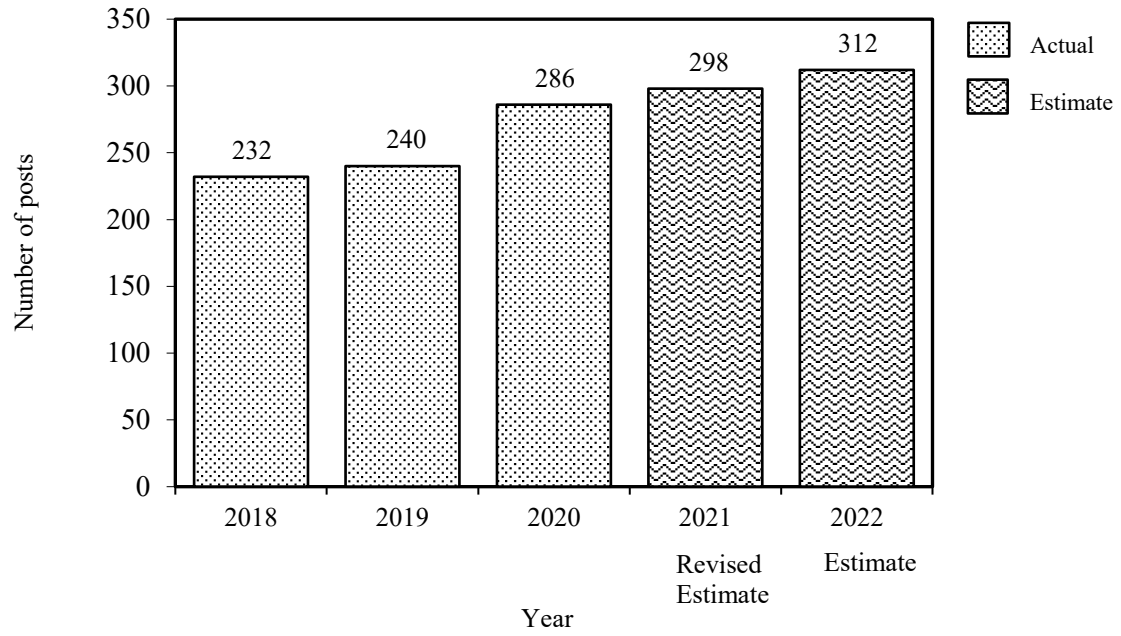
ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

	2019–20 (Actual) (\$m)	2020–21 (Original) (\$m)	2020–21 (Revised) (\$m)	2021–22 (Estimate) (\$m)
Programme				
Electoral Services	738.1	1,491.6	725.5 (–51.4%)	2,492.5 (+243.6%)
				(or +67.1% on 2020–21 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2021–22 is \$1,767.0 million (243.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2020–21. This is mainly due to the increased requirements for the conduct of the 2021 Legislative Council General Election, the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections and the 2022 Chief Executive Election. A total of 14 posts will be created in 2021–22 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 2019–20	Approved estimate 2020–21	Revised estimate 2020–21	Estimate 2021–22	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	737,500	1,491,634	725,495	2,492,456
	Total, Recurrent.....	737,500	1,491,634	725,495	2,492,456
	Total, Operating Account	737,500	1,491,634	725,495	2,492,456
Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	593	—	—	—
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	593	—	—	—
	Total, Capital Account.....	593	—	—	—
	Total Expenditure	738,093	1,491,634	725,495	2,492,456

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2021–22 for the salaries and expenses of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) is \$2,492,456,000. This represents an increase of \$1,766,961,000 over the revised estimate for 2020–21 and \$1,754,363,000 over the actual expenditure in 2019–20.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$2,492,456,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the REO. The increase of \$1,766,961,000 (243.6%) over the revised estimate for 2020–21 is mainly due to increased requirements for the conduct of the 2021 Legislative Council General Election, the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections and the 2022 Chief Executive Election.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2021 will be 298 posts. It is expected that 14 posts will be created in 2021–22. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2021–22, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$196,494,000.

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

	2019–20 (Actual) (\$'000)	2020–21 (Original) (\$'000)	2020–21 (Revised) (\$'000)	2021–22 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	133,114	157,310	146,478	175,564
- Allowances	3,929	2,768	6,416	6,176
- Job-related allowances.....	1	—	—	—
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	761	727	838	764
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	7,852	11,133	9,072	13,054
Departmental Expenses				
- Honoraria for members of committees.....	480	480	480	480
- General departmental expenses	31,201	29,994	35,675	36,111
Other Charges				
- Election expenses	560,162	1,289,222	526,536	2,260,307
	737,500	1,491,634	725,495	2,492,456