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Chapter: 2 Title: **PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE** Gazette Number: 68 of 1999
Section: 8 Heading: **Changes to the approved estimates of expenditure** Version Date: 01/07/1997

Remarks:

Adaptation amendments retroactively made - see 68 of 1999 s. 3

(1) Subject to this section, no changes shall be made to the approved estimates of expenditure except with the approval of the Finance Committee upon a proposal of the Financial Secretary.

(2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1) such changes may provide for all or any of the following matters-

- (a) the creation of new heads or subheads;
- (b) supplementary provision in approved or new subheads;
- (c) variations in the establishments of posts;
- (d) increases in the limit to the commitments which may be entered into in respect of expenditure which is not annually recurrent.

(3) The Finance Committee may delegate to the Financial Secretary the power to approve changes subject to such conditions, exceptions and limitations as are specified in the delegation.

(4) The Financial Secretary, where a delegation by the Finance Committee under subsection (3) so provides, and subject to such conditions, exceptions and limitations as are specified in the delegation, may further delegate his power to approve changes to any public officer.

(5) A delegation to any public officer under subsection (4) shall be subject to such further conditions, exceptions and limitations as the Financial Secretary may specify.

(6) Nothing in subsection (1) shall be construed as limiting or affecting-

- (a) the power of the Chief Executive to make any proposal, or allow or direct any proposal to be made, to the Legislative Council, the object or effect of which is to require a change to the approved estimates of expenditure; or (Amended 68 of 1999 s. 3)
- (b) a requirement under any enactment that expenditure be met from the general revenue.

(7) The Financial Secretary shall cause such changes to be made to the approved estimates of expenditure as are necessary in respect of any-

- (a) approval given under subsection (1), (3) or (4);
- (b) expenditure pursuant to a proposal referred to in subsection (6)(a); or
- (c) requirement referred to in subsection (6)(b) not otherwise provided for by approval under this section.

(8) The Financial Secretary shall at the end of each quarter of the financial year or as soon as practicable thereafter-

- (a) report to the Finance Committee changes made to the approved estimates of expenditure in that quarter upon approval by him or by any public officer pursuant to a delegation under subsection (3) or (4), as the case may be; and
- (b) table in the Legislative Council a summary of all changes made to the approved estimates of expenditure in that quarter under this section.

(9) Without prejudice to section 9, expenditure in respect of which a change to the approved estimates is made under this section shall be charged on the general revenue notwithstanding that there has been no appropriation in respect thereof by an Appropriation Ordinance.

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