

Head 180 — OFFICE FOR FILM, NEWSPAPER AND ARTICLE ADMINISTRATION

Controlling officer: the Director of Film, Newspaper and Article Administration will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2014–15 **\$43.8m**

Establishment ceiling 2014–15 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 54 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2014 rising by 12 posts to 66 posts as at 31 March 2015..... **\$23.2m**

In addition, there will be an estimated one directorate post as at 31 March 2014 and as at 31 March 2015.

Controlling Officer's Report

Programme

Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration

This programme contributes to Policy Area 17: Information Technology and Broadcasting (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development) and Policy Area 18: Recreation, Culture, Amenities and Entertainment Licensing (Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs).

Detail

	2012–13 (Actual)	2013–14 (Original)	2013–14 (Revised)	2014–15 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	41.3	43.6	43.6 (—)	43.8 (+0.5%)
				(or +0.5% on 2013–14 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to enforce a system of film classification according to the Film Censorship Ordinance (Cap. 392) (FCO) through a censorship scheme which meets the needs and reflects the moral standards of the community; to control, together with the Police and the Customs and Excise Department, the publication of obscene and indecent articles by enforcing the Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles Ordinance (Cap. 390) (COIAO); and to register local newspapers under the Registration of Local Newspapers Ordinance (Cap. 268) (RLNO).

Brief Description

3 On film classification, the Office is responsible for the examination of films for public exhibition under the three-tier film classification system and the examination of advertising materials and packaging of films that fall within the statutory definition of Category III (for persons aged 18 or above only). The work of the Office involves:

- classifying films for public exhibition and publication, and granting exemption from classification;
- examining advertising materials and packaging of video tapes and laser discs of Category III films;
- inspecting cinemas to enforce the age restriction for audience admission and other provisions under the FCO;
- inspecting video shops and other retail outlets to regulate the publication of films in the form of video tape and laser disc;
- gauging public opinion on film classification standards;
- maintaining a panel of advisers to allow public participation in the film classification process; and
- promoting the three-tier film classification system to the public.

4 On the enforcement of the COIAO, the Office is responsible for:

- regulating the publication and public display of obscene and indecent articles under the COIAO through monitoring articles published in the media and inspecting newspaper stalls, video and computer shops and other retail outlets;
- taking appropriate enforcement and prosecution action against violations of the COIAO;
- liaising with Internet service providers and the Hong Kong Internet Service Providers Association on the regulation of obscene and indecent materials transmitted through the Internet;

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- organising publicity and public education programmes to promote public awareness of the provisions of the COIAO;
- processing complaints relating to the publication of obscene and indecent articles; and
- gauging the prevailing moral standards of the community periodically.

5 In 2013, the Office continued its effort to promote public awareness of the protection of youth from indecent and obscene materials. Major activities organised are set out below:

- the COIAO Subsidising Scheme sponsored ten projects launched by voluntary organisations, youth bodies and schools to provide proper counselling and guidance for children and youth;
- the Meritorious Website Contest was held to promote safe and smart use of the Internet;
- a Healthy Application Nomination Programme was organised to promote the use of healthy applications in mobile phones or tablet personal computers;
- a radio drama programme was jointly organised with Metro Broadcast Corporation Limited to help promote the COIAO;
- district talks and workshops to promote the use of filtering software were conducted, with free filtering software distributed to parent participants;
- 212 schools talks for students/parents on safe and smart use of the Internet to protect the youth from indecent and obscene materials were conducted;
- an Internet video contest was held to promote the healthy use of the Internet among youngsters;
- a student ambassador training scheme was held to recruit students to help promote the COIAO;
- an educational kit was developed to promote secondary school students' awareness on the COIAO; and
- a school drama tour programme was conducted to promote the COIAO to students of primary and secondary schools.

6 The Office is also responsible for registering local newspapers and news agencies, and licensing newspaper distributors under the RLNO.

7 The key performance measures in respect of film classification, control of obscene and indecent articles and newspaper registration are:

Targets

	Targets	2012 (Actual)	2013 (Actual)	2014 (Plan)
<i>Film classification</i>				
assigning film viewing sessions for films submitted for classification within seven working days (%).....	100	100	100	100
notifying applicants on decisions about film classification within eight working days (%).....	100	99.7	99.7	100
issuing Certificates of Exemption to applicants within three working days (%).....	100	99.9	99.9	100
issuing Certificates of Packaging to applicants within two working days (%).....	100	98	100	100
issuing Certificates of Advertising Materials to applicants within two working days (%).....	100	100	99.6	100
<i>COIAO</i>				
issuing interim replies to complainants within seven working days (%).....	100	100	100	100
issuing substantive replies to complainants regarding investigation results on their complaints within 20 working days (%).....	100	100	100	100
<i>Newspaper Registration</i>				
new registration for local newspapers within seven working days (%).....	100	100	100	100

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Indicators

	2012 (Actual)	2013 (Actual)	2014 (Estimate)
<i>Film classification</i>			
films classified	1 878	1 945	1 945
films exempted from classification	11 733	11 554	11 560
packaging examined.....	149	115	120
advertising materials of films examined	540	381	380
inspections conducted	1 302	1 302	1 300
<i>COIAO</i>			
articles scrutinised.....	331 434	332 732	330 000
inspections conducted	72 609	72 696	72 600
summonses issued§	84	43	43
enforcement operations conducted.....	180	184	180
obscene and indecent articles seized	3 835	1 780 [^]	1 780
talks and seminars conducted.....	214	212	210
<i>Newspaper Registration</i>			
local newspapers and news-related publications registered.....	735	770	770
newspaper distributor licences issued	23	22	22

§ New indicator as from 2013 to replace an obsolete indicator to better reflect the Office’s enforcement work.

[^] There was a decrease in the number of indecent DVD and VCD seized from retail outlets inspected.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014–15

8 During 2014–15, the Office will:

- continue its enforcement of the FCO and the COIAO,
- continue to organise publicity and public education programmes to promote public awareness of the FCO and the COIAO,
- continue to assist the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau in mapping out the way forward on the review of the COIAO, and
- conduct a public opinion survey on the awareness and standards of the three-tier film classification system.

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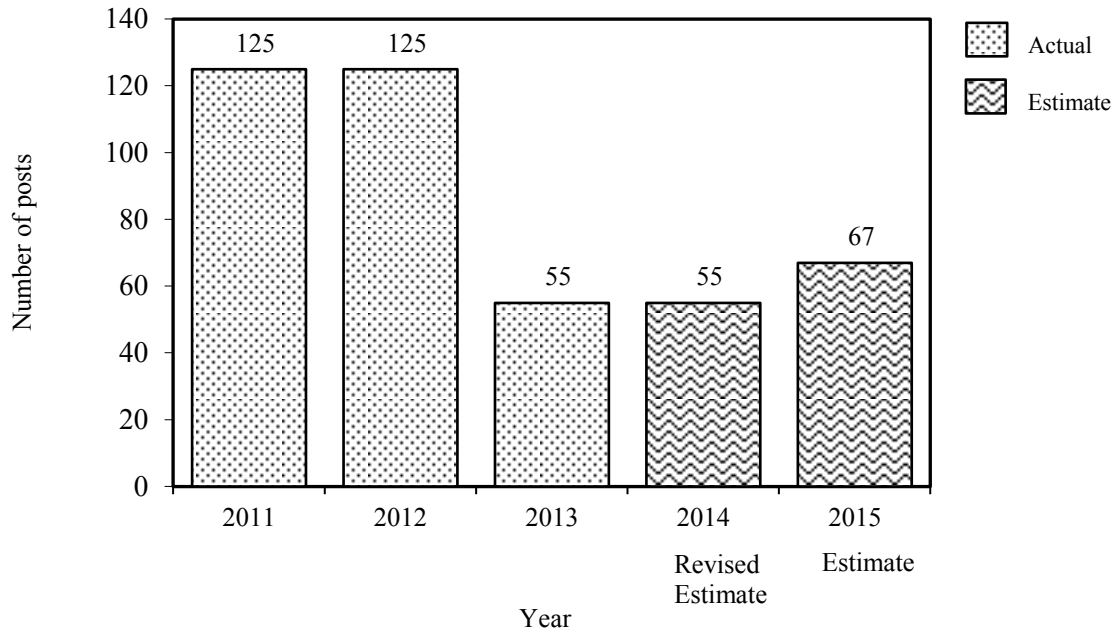
ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

	2012-13 (Actual) (\$m)	2013-14 (Original) (\$m)	2013-14 (Revised) (\$m)	2014-15 (Estimate) (\$m)
Programme				
Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration	41.3	43.6	43.6 (—)	43.8 (+0.5%)
				(or +0.5% on 2013-14 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2014-15 is \$0.2 million (0.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2013-14. This is mainly due to the increased provision for salary increase.

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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2012-13	Approved estimate 2013-14	Revised estimate 2013-14	Estimate 2014-15	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	41,251	43,627	43,630	43,790
	Total, Recurrent	41,251	43,627	43,630	43,790
	Total, Operating Account	41,251	43,627	43,630	43,790
<hr/>					
	Total Expenditure	41,251	43,627	43,630	43,790
		<u>41,251</u>	<u>43,627</u>	<u>43,630</u>	<u>43,790</u>

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2014–15 for the salaries and expenses for the Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (OFNAA) is \$43,790,000. This represents an increase of \$160,000 over the revised estimate for 2013–14 and of \$2,539,000 over actual expenditure in 2012–13.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$43,790,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of OFNAA.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2014 will be 55 permanent posts. It is expected that there will be an increase of 12 posts in 2014–15. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2014–15, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$23,222,000.

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

	2012–13 (Actual) (\$'000)	2013–14 (Original) (\$'000)	2013–14 (Revised) (\$'000)	2014–15 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries.....	19,850	20,532	24,774	27,461
- Allowances.....	97	101	126	139
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	19	55	24	147
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	127	109	206	244
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	21,158	22,830	18,500	15,799
	41,251	43,627	43,630	43,790