

Head 163 — REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE

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

Estimate 2015–16 **\$743.8m**

Establishment ceiling 2015–16 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 212 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2015 rising by 45 posts to 257 posts as at 31 March 2016..... **\$121.6m**

In addition, there will be an estimated two directorate posts as at 31 March 2015 and as at 31 March 2016.

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

	2013–14 (Actual)	2014–15 (Original)	2014–15 (Revised)	2015–16 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	81.8	268.3	185.7 (–30.8%)	743.8 (+300.5%)
				(or +177.2% on 2014–15 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) will, under the direction of the Electoral Affairs Commission, implement 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 2014–15, 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 updating of the guidelines for the Rural Representative election;
- the conduct and supervision of District Council by-elections;
- the supervision of the conduct of Village Representative by-elections and the 2015 Rural ordinary election;
- the submission of reports to the Chief Executive on District Council by-elections and Village Representative by-elections;
- the submission of recommendations to the Chief Executive on the delineation of constituencies for the 2015 District Council ordinary election;

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- the reallocation of electors affected by the delineation of constituencies for the 2015 District Council ordinary election; 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

	2013 (Actual)	2014 (Actual)	2015 (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	3	4	—‡
Legislative Council by-election	—	—	—‡
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 or before 8 Sep
to submit to the Chief Executive a report on matters			
relating to			
the Village Representative by-elections.....	on 27 Feb & 23 Aug	on 10 Mar & 15 Aug & 30 Dec	—
by-elections of the Sha Tin District Council			
On Tai Constituency	on 1 Feb	—	—
Tin Sum Constituency	on 7 Jun	—	—
a by-election of the Kwun Tong District Council			
Ping Shek Constituency.....	on 23 Aug	—	—
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 or before 24 Apr
the Rural Representative by-elections	—	—	on or before 11 Sep

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

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Indicators

	2013 (Actual)	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Estimate)
no. of new electors registered#.....	58 839	78 837	159 100
no. of elector records updated@.....	120 307	124 422	242 800

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 2015–16

6 During 2015–16, 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 the updating of 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 the 2015–17 election cycle as necessary;
- 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;
- the conduct and supervision of by-elections to the Legislative Council and District Councils, if any;
- the supervision of the conduct of Rural Representative by-elections;
- the submission of reports to the Chief Executive on the 2015 Rural ordinary election, the 2015 District Council ordinary election and the by-elections;
- the submission of recommendations to the Chief Executive on the delineation of geographical constituencies for the 2016 Legislative Council general election;
- the preparatory work for the conduct of the 2016 Legislative Council general election and the 2016 subsector elections; 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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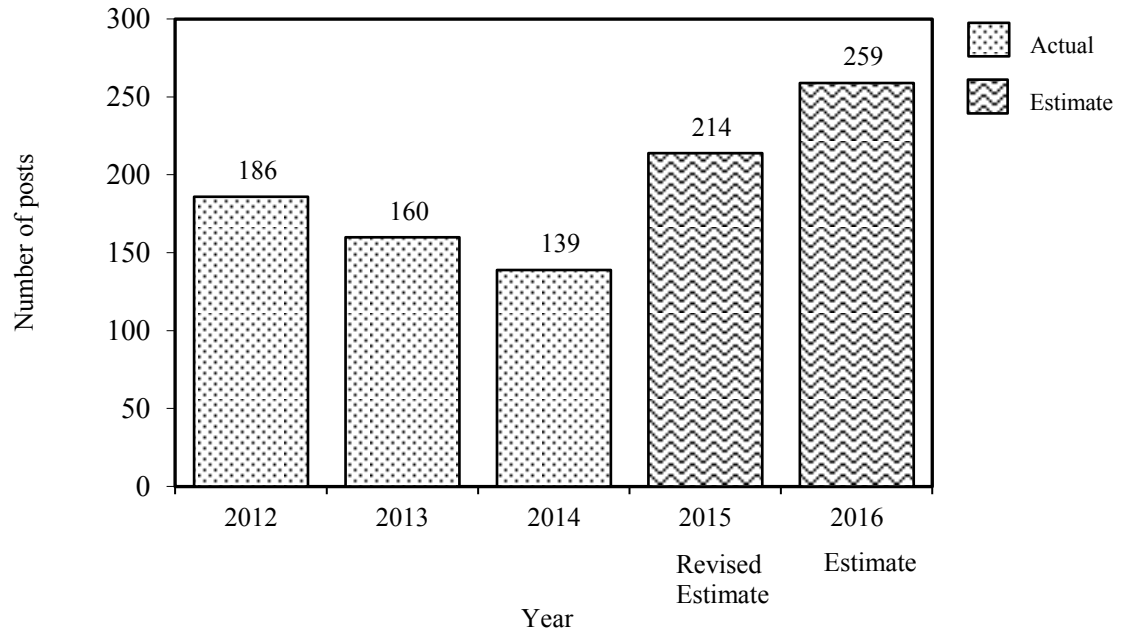
ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2013-14 (Actual) (\$m)	2014-15 (Original) (\$m)	2014-15 (Revised) (\$m)	2015-16 (Estimate) (\$m)
Electoral Services.....	81.8	268.3	185.7 (-30.8%)	743.8 (+300.5%)
				(or +177.2% on 2014-15 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2015-16 is \$558.1 million (300.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2014-15. This is mainly due to increased requirements for the conduct of the 2015 District Council ordinary election, preparation of the 2016 Legislative Council general election, as well as preparation and conduct of any by-election. A total of 45 posts will be created in 2015-16 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 2013–14	Approved estimate 2014–15	Revised estimate 2014–15	Estimate 2015–16	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	81,784	268,299	185,730	743,819
	Total, Recurrent	81,784	268,299	185,730	743,819
	Total, Operating Account	81,784	268,299	185,730	743,819
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	Total Expenditure	81,784	268,299	185,730	743,819
		<u>81,784</u>	<u>268,299</u>	<u>185,730</u>	<u>743,819</u>

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2015–16 for the salaries and expenses of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) is \$743,819,000. This represents an increase of \$558,089,000 over the revised estimate for 2014–15 and of \$662,035,000 over the actual expenditure in 2013–14.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$743,819,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the REO. The increase of \$558,089,000 (300.5%) over the revised estimate for 2014–15 is mainly due to increased requirements for the conduct of the 2015 District Council ordinary election, preparation of the 2016 Legislative Council general election, as well as preparation and conduct of any by-election.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2015 will be 213 permanent posts and one supernumerary post. It is expected that 45 posts will be created in 2015–16. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2015–16, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$121,641,000.

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

	2013–14 (Actual) (\$'000)	2014–15 (Original) (\$'000)	2014–15 (Revised) (\$'000)	2015–16 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries.....	46,872	86,929	72,677	123,115
- Allowances.....	407	1,112	1,530	2,474
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	255	232	396	390
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	819	1,131	1,816	3,042
Departmental Expenses				
- Honoraria for members of committees	480	480	480	480
- General departmental expenses	19,847	15,991	19,275	20,268
Other Charges				
- Election expenses.....	13,104	162,424	89,556	594,050
	81,784	268,299	185,730	743,819