

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 2015–16 **\$45.4m**

Establishment ceiling 2015–16 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 66 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2015 and as at 31 March 2016. **\$24.4m**

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

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

	2013–14 (Actual)	2014–15 (Original)	2014–15 (Revised)	2015–16 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	39.9	43.8	43.5 (–0.7%)	45.4 (+4.4%)
				(or +3.7% on 2014–15 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;
- 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;
- organising publicity and public education programmes to promote public awareness of the provisions of the COIAO;

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- processing complaints relating to the publication of obscene and indecent articles; and
- gauging the prevailing moral standards of the community periodically.

5 In 2014, the Office continued its efforts in promoting public awareness of the protection of youth from indecent and obscene materials. Major activities organised are set out below:

- the COIAO Subsidising Scheme sponsored 15 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 organised 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;
- 210 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 launched to promote secondary school students' awareness on the COIAO;
- a school drama tour programme was conducted to promote the COIAO to students of primary and secondary schools; and
- a comic contest was conducted to encourage youngsters to stay away from unhealthy materials and electronic games.

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	2013 (Actual)	2014 (Actual)	2015 (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	99.8	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	100	100	100
issuing Certificates of Advertising Materials to applicants within two working days (%).....	100	99.6	100	100
<i>COIAO</i>				
issuing interim replies to complainants within seven working days (%).....	100	100	99.8	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

	2013 (Actual)	2014 (Actual)	2015 (Estimate)
<i>Film classification</i>			
films classified	1 945	1 996	2 000
films exempted from classification	11 554	11 305	11 300
packaging examined.....	115	94	94
advertising materials of films examined	381	383	380
inspections conducted	1 302	1 301	1 300
<i>COIAO</i>			
articles scrutinised.....	332 732	334 358	330 000
inspections conducted	72 696	72 848	72 600
summonses issued	43	43	43
enforcement operations conducted.....	184	180	180
obscene and indecent articles seized.....	1 780	517 [^]	520
talks and seminars conducted.....	212	210	210
<i>Newspaper Registration</i>			
local newspapers and news-related publications registered.....	770	781	780
newspaper distributor licences issued	22	24	22

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

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2015–16

8 During 2015–16, 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, and
- continue to assist the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau in mapping out the way forward on the review of the COIAO.

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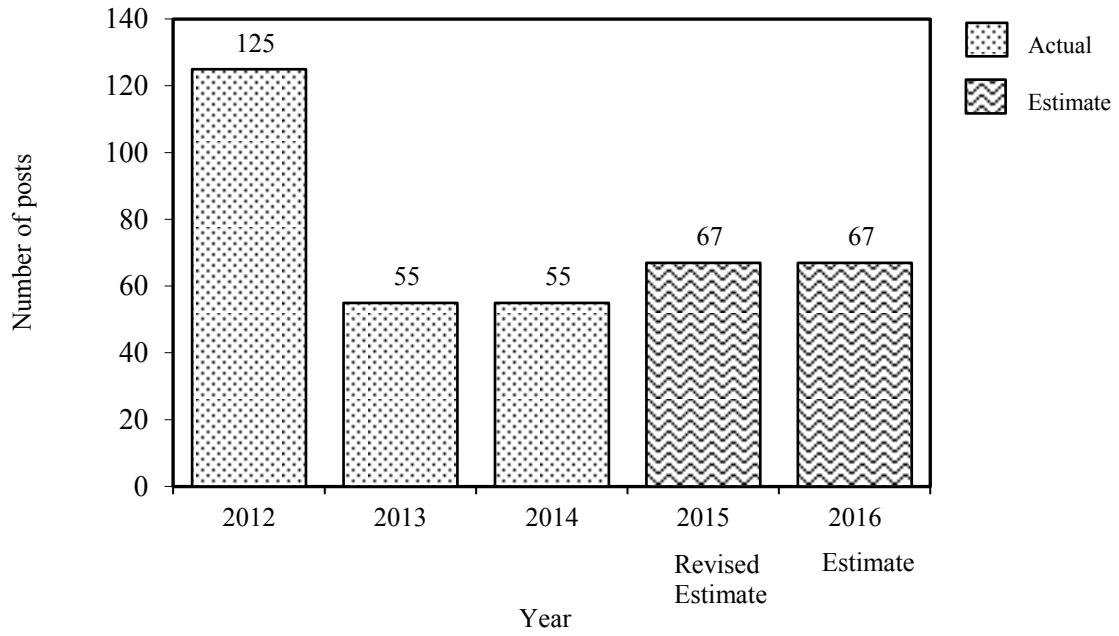
ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

	2013-14 (Actual) (\$m)	2014-15 (Original) (\$m)	2014-15 (Revised) (\$m)	2015-16 (Estimate) (\$m)
Programme				
Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration	39.9	43.8	43.5 (-0.7%)	45.4 (+4.4%)
				(or +3.7% on 2014-15 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2015-16 is \$1.9 million (4.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2014-15. This is mainly due to the increased provision arising from the full-year effect on filling of vacant posts in 2014-15.

*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	39,941	43,790	43,500	45,393
	Total, Recurrent	39,941	43,790	43,500	45,393
	Total, Operating Account	39,941	43,790	43,500	45,393
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	Total Expenditure	39,941	43,790	43,500	45,393

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2015–16 for the salaries and expenses for the Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (OFNAA) is \$45,393,000. This represents an increase of \$1,893,000 over the revised estimate for 2014–15 and of \$5,452,000 over the actual expenditure in 2013–14.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$45,393,000 *under Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of OFNAA.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2015 will be 67 permanent posts. No change in establishment is expected 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 \$24,364,000.

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.....	23,820	27,461	27,545	31,418
- Allowances.....	144	139	67	66
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	30	147	91	240
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	218	244	297	393
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	15,729	15,799	15,500	13,276
	<u>39,941</u>	<u>43,790</u>	<u>43,500</u>	<u>45,393</u>