

Head 163 — REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE

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

Estimate 2018–19 **\$711.4m**

Establishment ceiling 2018–19 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 256 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2018 rising by two posts to 258 posts as at 31 March 2019..... **\$124.2m**

In addition, there will be an estimated one directorate post as at 31 March 2018 rising by one post to two posts as at 31 March 2019.

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

	2016–17 (Actual)	2017–18 (Original)	2017–18 (Revised)	2018–19 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	921.0	554.2	342.4 (–38.2%)	711.4 (+107.8%)
				(or +28.4% on 2017–18 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 2017–18, 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 REO with provision of address proofs as appropriate;
- the review and amendment of subsidiary legislation on voter registration and electoral arrangements for elections;
- the updating of guidelines for the conduct of the 2019 Rural ordinary election;
- the conduct and supervision of one District Council by-election and one Legislative Council by-election;
- the supervision of the conduct of Rural by-elections;

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- the submission of reports to the Chief Executive on the 2017 Chief Executive election (including the 2016 Election Committee subsector ordinary elections), one District Council by-election and two Rural by-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

	2016 (Actual)	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Plan)
to conduct annual exercise for			
voter registration	1	1	1
updating records of the registered electors	1	1	1
to organise			
District Council by-election	—	1	1‡
Legislative Council general election	1	—	—
Legislative Council by-election	1	—	1‡
Election Committee subsector ordinary elections	1	—	—
Chief Executive election	—	1	—
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 District Council constituencies for the			
2019 District Council ordinary election	—	—	on or before 21 Nov
to submit to the Chief Executive a report on matters			
relating to			
the Rural by-elections	on 3 Mar & 26 Aug	on 24 Feb & 23 Jun	on or before 9 Mar & in Aug
by-election of the Central and Western District			
Council Peak Constituency and Tung Wah			
Constituency	—	—	on or before 26 Feb
the 2015 District Council ordinary election	on 22 Feb	—	—
by-elections of the Legislative Council			
New Territories East Geographical			
Constituency	on 27 May	—	—
Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New			
Territories East Geographical Constituencies			
and Architectural, Surveying, Planning and			
Landscape Functional Constituency	—	—	on or before 11 Jun
the 2016 Legislative Council general election	on 2 Dec	—	—
the 2016 Election Committee subsector ordinary			
elections and the 2017 Chief Executive election	—	on 16 Jun	—

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

^ Five days for the Election Committee subsector elections.

Indicators

	2016 (Actual)	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Estimate)
no. of new electors registered#	212 098	89 838	82 000
no. of elector records updated@	261 925	166 975	143 000

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 2018–19

6 During 2018–19, 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 (including young persons in particular) to register as electors and remind electors applying for change of registered addresses about the new requirement of submitting address proofs;
- 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 voter registration and electoral arrangements for elections as necessary;
- the issue of guidelines for the conduct of the 2019 Rural ordinary election;
- the supervision of the conduct of Rural by-elections and the 2019 Rural ordinary election;
- the conduct and supervision of the Legislative Council and District Council by-elections, if any;
- the submission of reports to the Chief Executive on the Legislative Council by-election for the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East Geographical Constituencies and the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency and other by-elections;
- the submission of recommendations to the Chief Executive on the boundaries and names of District Council constituencies for the 2019 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.

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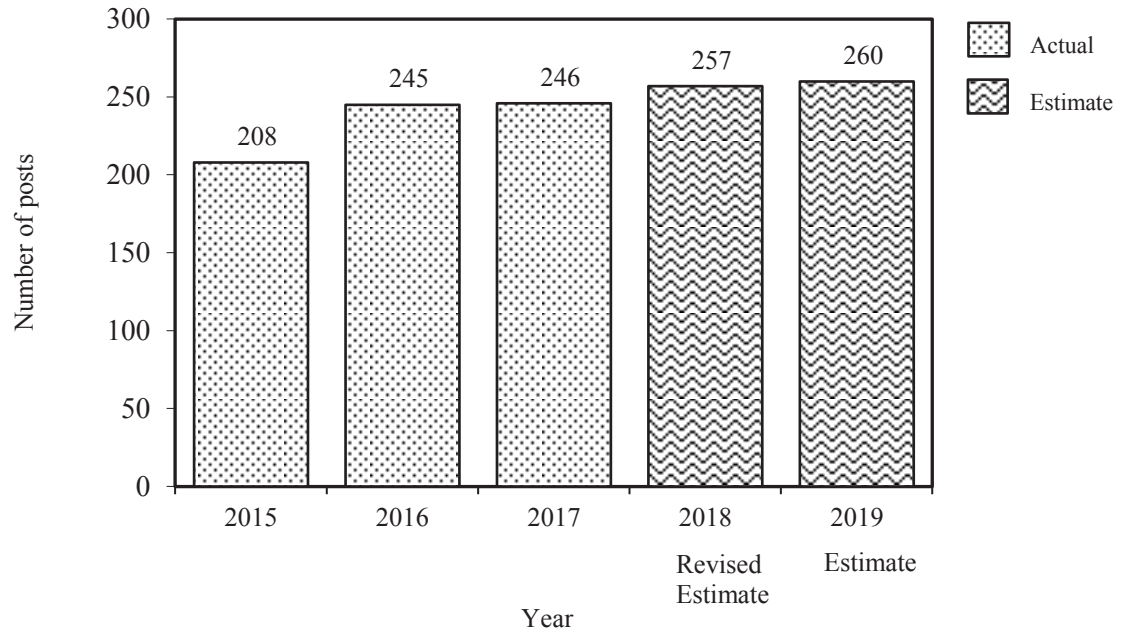
ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2016-17 (Actual) (\$m)	2017-18 (Original) (\$m)	2017-18 (Revised) (\$m)	2018-19 (Estimate) (\$m)
Electoral Services	921.0	554.2	342.4 (-38.2%)	711.4 (+107.8%)
				(or +28.4% on 2017-18 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2018-19 is \$369.0 million (107.8%) higher than the revised estimate for 2017-18. This is mainly due to the increased requirements for the conduct of the Legislative Council by-election for the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East Geographical Constituencies and the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency; the preparation for the 2019 District Council ordinary election; as well as the provision reserved for the preparation and conduct of other possible by-elections, partly offset by the reduction in requirements upon completion of the 2017 Chief Executive election. There will also be a net increase of three posts in 2018-19.

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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2016-17	Approved estimate 2017-18	Revised estimate 2017-18	Estimate 2018-19	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	920,422	554,159	342,372	711,357
	Total, Recurrent.....	920,422	554,159	342,372	711,357
	Total, Operating Account	920,422	554,159	342,372	711,357
Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	536	—	—	—
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	536	—	—	—
	Total, Capital Account.....	536	—	—	—
	Total Expenditure	920,958	554,159	342,372	711,357

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2018–19 for the salaries and expenses of the Registration and Electoral Office (REO) is \$711,357,000. This represents an increase of \$368,985,000 over the revised estimate for 2017–18 and a decrease of \$209,601,000 against the actual expenditure in 2016–17.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$711,357,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the REO. The increase of \$368,985,000 (107.8%) over the revised estimate for 2017–18 is mainly due to the increased requirements for the conduct of the Legislative Council by-election for the Hong Kong Island, Kowloon West and New Territories East Geographical Constituencies and the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape Functional Constituency; the preparation for the 2019 District Council ordinary election; as well as the provision reserved for the preparation and conduct of other possible by-elections, partly offset by the reduction in requirements upon completion of the 2017 Chief Executive election.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2018 will be 257 posts. It is expected that there will be a net increase of three posts in 2018–19. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2018–19, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$124,159,000.

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

	2016–17 (Actual) (\$'000)	2017–18 (Original) (\$'000)	2017–18 (Revised) (\$'000)	2018–19 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries.....	118,076	84,918	104,093	117,724
- Allowances.....	3,526	1,156	2,183	1,496
- Job-related allowances.....	—	136	129	148
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	407	445	399	710
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	5,571	4,217	5,672	6,668
Departmental Expenses				
- Honoraria for members of committees	480	480	480	480
- General departmental expenses	15,445	25,497	31,976	28,179
Other Charges				
- Election expenses.....	776,917	437,310	197,440	555,952
	920,422	554,159	342,372	711,357