

## 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 2019–20** ..... **\$51.6m**

**Establishment ceiling 2019–20** (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 67 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2019 and as at 31 March 2020 ..... **\$28.9m**

In addition, there will be an estimated one directorate post as at 31 March 2019 and as at 31 March 2020.

### 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

	2017–18 (Actual)	2018–19 (Original)	2018–19 (Revised)	<b>2019–20 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	48.2	50.3	50.2 (–0.2%)	<b>51.6</b> (+2.8%)
				(or +2.6% on 2018–19 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 for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration 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 videodiscs 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 opinions 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 actions 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; and
- processing complaints relating to the publication of obscene and indecent articles.

5 In 2018, 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 implemented 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;
- the Healthy Apps Contest was organised to promote the use of healthy applications in mobile phones or tablet computers;
- district talks and workshops to promote the use of filtering software were conducted, with free filtering software distributed to parent participants;
- 211 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;
- a school drama tour programme was conducted to promote the COIAO to students of primary and secondary schools;
- a comic contest was conducted to encourage youngsters to stay away from unhealthy materials and electronic games; and
- an animation script creation contest was launched to promote the COIAO among youngsters.

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	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (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	100	100	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	100	100	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*

	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Estimate)
<i>Film classification</i>			
films classified .....	2 228	2 499	<b>2 500</b>
films exempted from classification .....	8 496	8 807	<b>8 800</b>
packaging examined.....	54	67 <sup>^</sup>	<b>70</b>
advertising materials of films examined .....	319	278	<b>280</b>
inspections conducted .....	1 301	1 300	<b>1 300</b>
<i>COIAO</i>			
articles scrutinised.....	331 219	330 527	<b>330 000</b>
inspections conducted .....	72 616	72 612	<b>72 600</b>
summons issued .....	79	51	<b>59</b>
enforcement operations conducted.....	181	180	<b>180</b>
obscene and indecent articles seized <sup>§</sup> .....	1 918	825	<b>1 540</b>
talks and seminars conducted.....	211	211	<b>210</b>
<i>Newspaper Registration</i>			
local newspapers and news-related publications registered.....	675	637	<b>637</b>
newspaper distributor licences issued .....	22	22	<b>22</b>

<sup>^</sup> The FCO provides that only packaging to be used in relation to publication of Category III films requires examination by the Film Censorship Authority. Whilst the number of Category III films in 2018 is similar to that of 2017, the number of sets of packaging examined by the Film Censorship Authority has increased for reasons including the publication of Category III films which have been censored before 2018 and the publication of some Category III films in more than one format (e.g. VCD, DVD and/or blu-ray discs) in 2018.

<sup>§</sup> While the number of enforcement operations conducted in 2018 was more or less the same as that in 2017, the number of indecent articles seized in 2017 was much higher than that in 2018 because a large number of indecent articles were seized in one single operation in 2017. The estimated number of obscene and indecent articles seized in 2019 is projected based on the figures in 2016 to 2018.

***Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019–20***

**8** During 2019–20, 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 implementing improvement measures arising from the review of the COIAO.

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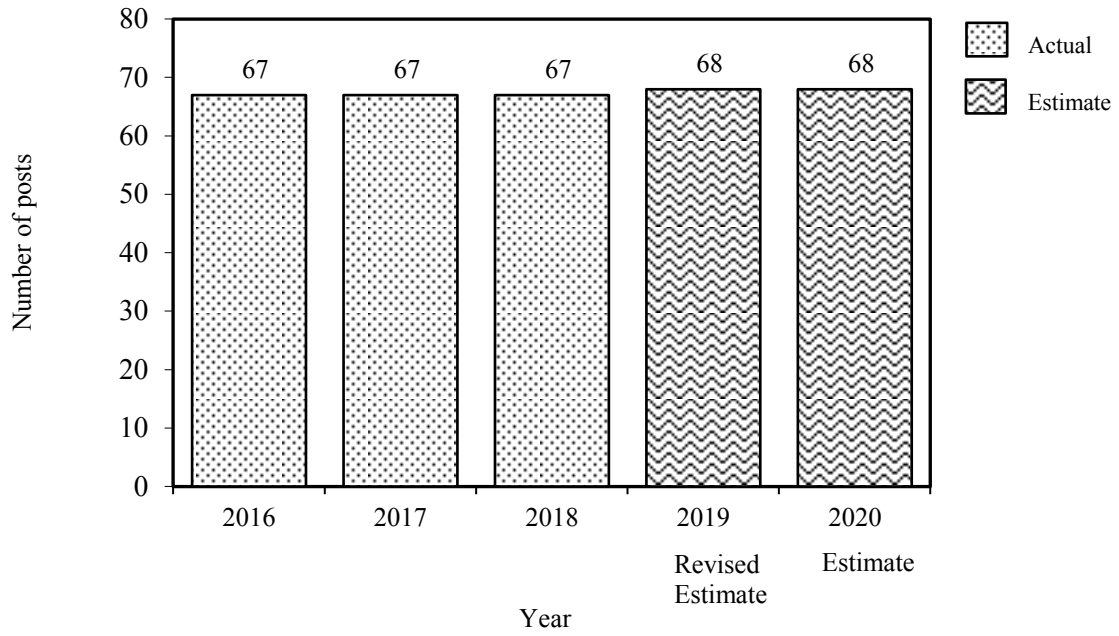
**ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION**

	2017-18 (Actual) (\$m)	2018-19 (Original) (\$m)	2018-19 (Revised) (\$m)	2019-20 (Estimate) (\$m)
<b>Programme</b>				
Film Classification, Control of Obscene and Indecent Articles and Newspaper Registration .....	48.2	50.3	50.2 (-0.2%)	51.6 (+2.8%)
				<b>(or +2.6% on 2018-19 Original)</b>

**Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision**

Provision for 2019-20 is \$1.4 million (2.8%) higher than the revised estimate for 2018-19. This is mainly due to increased requirement for operating expenses.

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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2017-18	Approved estimate 2018-19	Revised estimate 2018-19	<b>Estimate 2019-20</b>	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	<b>\$'000</b>	
<b>Operating Account</b>					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses .....	48,232	50,316	50,214	<b>51,627</b>
	Total, Recurrent .....	48,232	50,316	50,214	<b>51,627</b>
	Total, Operating Account .....	48,232	50,316	50,214	<b>51,627</b>
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	Total Expenditure .....	48,232	50,316	50,214	<b>51,627</b>

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### Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2019–20 for the salaries and expenses of the Office for Film, Newspaper and Article Administration (OFNAA) is \$51,627,000. This represents an increase of \$1,413,000 over the revised estimate for 2018–19 and \$3,395,000 over the actual expenditure in 2017–18.

#### *Operating Account*

#### Recurrent

**2** Provision of \$51,627,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of OFNAA.

**3** The establishment as at 31 March 2019 will be 68 permanent posts. No change in establishment is expected in 2019–20. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2019–20, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$28,928,000.

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

	2017–18 (Actual) (\$'000)	2018–19 (Original) (\$'000)	2018–19 (Revised) (\$'000)	<b>2019–20 (Estimate) (\$'000)</b>
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries.....	34,689	35,724	35,585	<b>35,812</b>
- Allowances.....	196	75	175	<b>160</b>
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	100	49	78	<b>98</b>
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	1,236	1,698	1,666	<b>2,140</b>
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses .....	12,011	12,770	12,710	<b>13,417</b>
	48,232	50,316	50,214	<b>51,627</b>