

Head 47 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

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

Estimate 2024–25 **\$2,996.7m**

Establishment ceiling 2024–25 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 735 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2024 rising by 42 posts to 777 posts as at 31 March 2025..... **\$581.1m**

In addition, there will be an estimated 15 directorate posts as at 31 March 2024 rising by one post to 16 posts as at 31 March 2025.

Commitment balance..... **\$3,942.3m**

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

**Programme (1) Use of Information
Technology (IT) in
Government**

These programmes contribute to Policy Area 17: Information Technology and Broadcasting (Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry).

**Programme (2) IT Infrastructure and
Standards**

Programme (3) IT in the Community

Detail

Programme (1): Use of IT in Government

	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Original)	2023–24 (Revised)	2024–25 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	1,038.4	960.1	898.5 (–6.4%)	1,287.9 (+43.3%)
				(or +34.1% on 2023–24 Original)

Aim

2 The aim of this programme is to provide government bureaux and departments with the information and services they need in an efficient, convenient, secure and environmentally-friendly manner by suitable adoption of information and communications technology (ICT), and to support bureaux and departments to make the best use of ICT to achieve their policy objectives. Government policy initiatives, internal efficiency, transparency and public engagement should also be enabled by innovative use of ICT.

Brief Description

3 The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) delivers and enhances the Government's online one-stop service portal, and manages relationships with portal users. It provides a range of IT professional services and facilitation measures to bureaux and departments, sets policies on IT standards, and develops and operates shared infrastructure and central services that take into account industry and technology developments. It establishes policies and practices on governance and cybersecurity, invests in IT, supports the IT initiatives of bureaux and departments, and enables them to assure the quality of their IT strategies, projects and operations. It also develops and motivates members of the government IT profession.

4 In 2023–24, OGCIO:

- continued to provide technical advice and support to bureaux and departments in implementing big data analytics and blockchain applications;
- launched the Consented Data Exchange Gateway and connected it with the Commercial Data Interchange of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority to facilitate sharing of data from government departments to financial institutions upon authorisation of their enterprise clients;
- completed the e-government audit for bureaux and departments;
- completed installation of all IT systems, networks and equipment of the government data centre complex and commenced its operations;
- completed the review and update of the government information security policies and guidelines;

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- completed the implementation and continued the rollout of electronic recordkeeping system to bureaux and departments in collaboration with the Government Records Service and the Efficiency Office; and
- collaborated with the Guangdong Provincial Administration of Government Service and Data to launch “Cross-boundary Public Services”, including the use of “iAM Smart” for real name identity authentication on the “Unified Identity Authentication Platform of Guangdong Province”, enabling residents and enterprises in Hong Kong and Mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area (GBA) to access government services of the two places online without the need for cross-boundary travel in person.

5 The key performance measures in respect of use of IT in the Government are:

Target

	Target	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Plan)
services rendered meeting requirements set out in service level documents agreed with users (%).....	100	100	100	100

Indicators

	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Estimate)
no. of bureaux and departments with IT plans in place	67	67	67
results of post-implementation departmental returns on completed IT projects			
completed on schedule (%).....	74.9	75.1	75.0
completed within budget (%).....	100	100	100
meeting agreed specifications (%)	99.2	99.6	100
achieving intended benefits (%).....	99.6	99.6	99.0
	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Revised Estimate)	2024–25 (Estimate)
total value of work undertaken in the year (\$m)	2,614.9	3,410.9	4,558.3
total value of work outsourced in the year (\$m)	2,420.0	3,277.1	4,102.5

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024–25

6 During 2024–25, OGCIO will:

- continue to provide technical advice and support to bureaux and departments in implementing big data analytics and blockchain applications;
- continue to implement the Consented Data Exchange Gateway to facilitate sharing of personal data among systems of government departments upon citizens’ consent;
- support bureaux and departments to implement the recommended digital government initiatives from the e-government audit;
- support the National Games Co-ordination Office to develop digital services for co-hosting the 15th National Games, 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities and the 9th National Special Olympic Games in Hong Kong;
- continue to promote and assist government departments in sourcing innovative IT solutions to meet their business needs and enhance public services through the Smart Government Innovation Lab;
- explore with Development Bureau the use of cavern to develop a new government data centre;
- promote the updated government information security policies and guidelines and monitor their implementation within the Government;
- continue the rollout of electronic recordkeeping system to bureaux and departments in collaboration with the Government Records Service and the Efficiency Office;
- continue to collaborate with the Guangdong Provincial Administration of Government Service and Data on provision of “Cross-boundary Public Services” in the GBA; and
- take forward the merging of OGCIO with the Efficiency Office to set up the Digital Policy Office.

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Programme (2): IT Infrastructure and Standards

	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Original)	2023–24 (Revised)	2024–25 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	358.8	609.7	400.4 (–34.3%)	398.8 (–0.4%)
				(or –34.6% on 2023–24 Original)

Aim

7 The aim of this programme is to provide Hong Kong with the IT infrastructure, standards, legal framework and talent needed to facilitate a vibrant digital economy and to enable core industries to improve their competitive position.

Brief Description

8 OGCIO supports the development of Hong Kong's IT infrastructure and facilitates the development of IT human capital to strengthen Hong Kong's position as a smart city. It seeks to develop a digital infrastructure through which the community can interact readily and securely, and to promote the use of electronic means for economic, social and government activities. It also seeks to introduce common standards which apply to both the public and private sectors.

9 In 2023–24, OGCIO:

- commenced the enhancement of “iAM Smart” to realise “single portal for online government services” and supported bureaux and departments to provide citizens with one-stop digitalised services by adopting “iAM Smart”;
- continued the implementation of the Knowing More About IT Programme and the IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools Programme;
- completed the implementation of the Multi-functional Smart Lampposts pilot scheme and established a mechanism for its ongoing implementation;
- continued to support the co-ordination and monitoring of smart city initiatives;
- continued to promote public awareness of cyber security including facilitating information sharing of cyber threats; and
- supported the publication of the Policy Statement on Facilitating Data Flow and Safeguarding Data Security in Hong Kong.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024–25

10 During 2024–25, OGCIO will:

- launch the enhanced “iAM Smart” platform in phases and continue to support bureaux and departments to provide citizens with one-stop digitalised services by adopting “iAM Smart”;
- continue to implement the Knowing More About IT Programme and the IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools Programme;
- continue to support the co-ordination and monitoring of initiatives for smart city development, including development of the Digital Corporate Identity Platform;
- continue to promote public awareness of cyber security including facilitating information sharing of cyber threats; and
- support the implementation of action items in the Policy Statement on Facilitating Data Flow and Safeguarding Data Security in Hong Kong.

Programme (3): IT in the Community

	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Original)	2023–24 (Revised)	2024–25 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	97.8	240.0	658.6 (+174.4%)	1,310.0 (+98.9%)
				(or +445.8% on 2023–24 Original)

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Aim

11 The aim of this programme is to strengthen the role of Hong Kong's business establishments in the local, Mainland and global markets for ICT and digital content services. The programme also aims to enable residents, businesses and public organisations to utilise and share information and knowledge in promoting sustainable development and improving the quality of life.

Brief Description

12 OGCIO promotes and facilitates the wider use of IT in the business sector and the community, and contributes to building a digitally inclusive society in Hong Kong. It collaborates with industry support organisations and trade associations to support the IT industry, including exploration of business opportunities locally, in the Mainland and overseas.

13 In 2023–24, OGCIO:

- continued to work with bureaux and departments and related organisations to open up more data in machine-readable format for free use by the public and published the fifth annual open data plans;
- continued to provide one-stop support service to facilitate the setting up of data centres in Hong Kong and to encourage the use of existing industrial buildings and industrial lots for data centres;
- completed the feasibility study for establishment of an Artificial Intelligence Supercomputing Centre (AISC) in Hong Kong;
- continued to implement programmes to promote ICT adoption among the elderly and facilitate elderly's self-learning;
- continued to promote web/mobile app accessibility in public and private organisations, and monitored the compliance of government websites and mobile apps;
- organised the Hong Kong ICT Awards 2023, Digital Economy Summit 2023 and Asia Pacific ICT Alliance Awards 2023 to enhance Hong Kong's profile as a leading ICT hub in the region;
- organised the Hong Kong/Shanghai Co-operation Data Forum cum Open Data Challenge 2023 to promote data collaboration and synergy of smart city development between Hong Kong and Shanghai;
- supported local ICT delegations to take part in international competitions and major ICT collaboration activities with the Mainland;
- organised the “*Maker in China*” SME Innovation and Entrepreneurship Global Contest 2023 – Hong Kong Chapter to connect local small and medium-sized technology enterprises with investors and business networks in the Mainland to explore business opportunities;
- launched the facilitation measure on GBA Standard Contract and its “early and pilot implementation” to streamline the compliance arrangements for the flow of personal data from Mainland cities within the GBA to Hong Kong;
- supported Cyberport to expedite the Web3 ecosystem development in Hong Kong;
- supported Cyberport to launch the Digital Transformation Support Pilot Programme to accelerate the digital transformation of small and medium enterprises; and
- supported Cyberport to launch the Incubation Programme for Smart Living Start-ups to foster the development of more smart living solutions and services.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024–25

14 During 2024–25, OGCIO will:

- continue to work with bureaux and departments and related organisations to open up more data in machine-readable format for free use by the public and update their open data plans;
- continue to provide one-stop support service to facilitate the setting up of data centres in Hong Kong and to encourage the use of existing industrial buildings and industrial lots for data centres;
- support the development of artificial intelligence including measures to encourage relevant research and development teams and industries to tap into the computing power of AISC;
- continue to promote ICT adoption among the elderly through digital inclusion programmes;
- continue to promote web/mobile app accessibility in public and private organisations, and conduct compliance audit on accessibility of government websites and mobile apps;
- continue to organise the Hong Kong ICT Awards 2024, Digital Economy Summit 2024, Hong Kong/Shanghai Co-operation Data Forum cum Open Data Challenge 2024 and the “*Maker in China*” SME Innovation and Entrepreneurship Global Contest – Hong Kong Chapter;

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- continue to support local ICT industry to take part in international competitions and major ICT collaboration activities with the Mainland;
- continue to take forward the “early and pilot implementation” of the facilitation measure on GBA Standard Contract to streamline the compliance arrangements for the flow of data from Mainland cities within the GBA to Hong Kong;
- continue to support Cyberport to implement the Digital Transformation Support Pilot Programme; and
- continue to support Cyberport to implement the Incubation Programme for Smart Living Start-ups.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

	2022–23 (Actual) (\$m)	2023–24 (Original) (\$m)	2023–24 (Revised) (\$m)	2024–25 (Estimate) (\$m)
Programme				
(1) Use of IT in Government.....	1,038.4	960.1	898.5	1,287.9
(2) IT Infrastructure and Standards	358.8	609.7	400.4	398.8
(3) IT in the Community	97.8	240.0	658.6	1,310.0
	1,495.0	1,809.8	1,957.5 (+8.2%)	2,996.7 (+53.1%)
				(or +65.6% on 2023–24 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2024–25 is \$389.4 million (43.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2023–24. This is mainly due to the increased provision for departmental expenses and personal emoluments. There will be a net increase of 34 posts in 2024–25.

Programme (2)

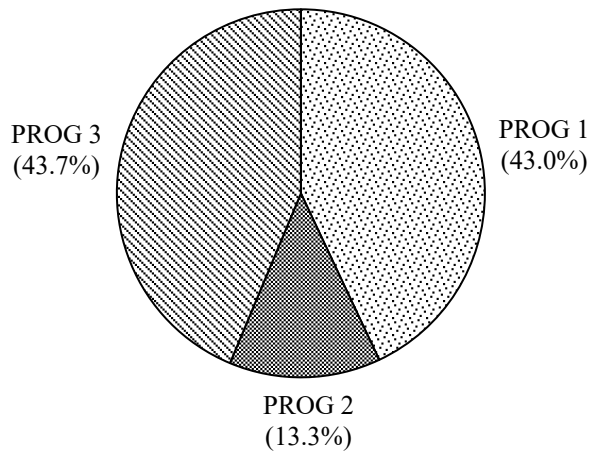
Provision for 2024–25 is \$1.6 million (0.4%) lower than the revised estimate for 2023–24. This is mainly due to the decreased cash flow requirement for general non-recurrent expenses, partly offset by the increased provision for departmental expenses.

Programme (3)

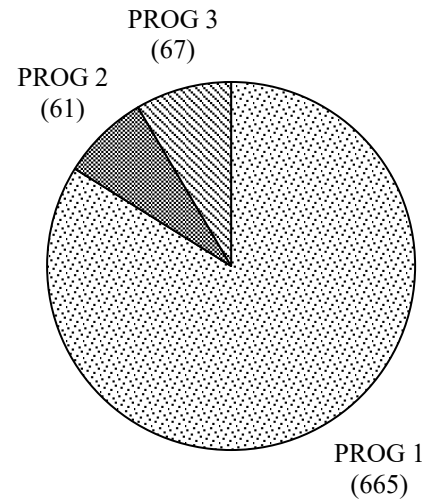
Provision for 2024–25 is \$651.4 million (98.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2023–24. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for general non-recurrent expenses, and the increased provision for departmental expenses and personal emoluments. There will be a net increase of nine posts in 2024–25.

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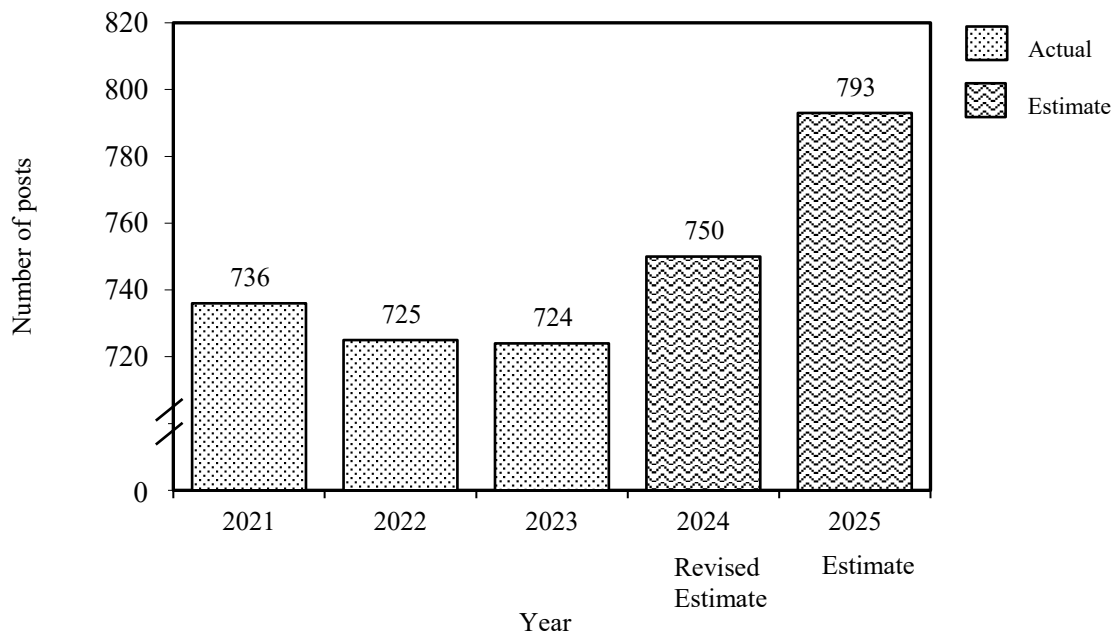
*Allocation of provision
to programmes
(2024-25)*



*Staff by programme
(as at 31 March 2025)*



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



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Sub-head (Code)		Actual expenditure 2022–23	Approved estimate 2023–24	Revised estimate 2023–24	Estimate 2024–25
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	1,304,069	1,357,294	1,239,972	1,706,321
	Total, Recurrent.....	1,304,069	1,357,294	1,239,972	1,706,321
Non-Recurrent					
700	General non-recurrent	190,905	452,530	717,490	1,289,043
	Total, Non-Recurrent.....	190,905	452,530	717,490	1,289,043
	Total, Operating Account	1,494,974	1,809,824	1,957,462	2,995,364
Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	—	—	—	1,350
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	—	—	—	1,350
	Total, Capital Account.....	—	—	—	1,350
	Total Expenditure	1,494,974	1,809,824	1,957,462	2,996,714

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2024–25 for the salaries and expenses of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) is \$2,996,714,000. This represents an increase of \$1,039,252,000 over the revised estimate for 2023–24 and \$1,501,740,000 over the actual expenditure in 2022–23.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$1,706,321,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of OGCIO. The increase of \$466,349,000 (37.6%) over the revised estimate for 2023–24 is mainly due to the increased provision for departmental expenses.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2024 will be 750 posts. It is expected that there will be a net increase of 43 posts in 2024–25. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2024–25, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$581,079,000.

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

	2022–23 (Actual) (\$'000)	2023–24 (Original) (\$'000)	2023–24 (Revised) (\$'000)	2024–25 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	492,896	525,274	515,421	577,518
- Allowances	11,445	11,450	12,460	12,460
- Job-related allowances.....	266	100	197	100
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	1,282	1,048	1,318	1,388
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	24,233	30,626	27,980	38,124
Departmental Expenses				
- Hire of services and professional fees	610,117	505,368	498,488	765,102
- Information and communications technology rentals and maintenance	50,413	62,110	70,263	66,463
- General departmental expenses	47,708	184,239	73,346	185,420
Other Charges				
- Hosting platform for e-government services.....	65,709	37,079	40,499	59,746
	<u>1,304,069</u>	<u>1,357,294</u>	<u>1,239,972</u>	<u>1,706,321</u>

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

5 Provision of \$1,350,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* is for the replacement of minor plant and equipment with the cost of individual items above \$200,000 but not exceeding \$10 million.

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Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2023	Revised estimated expenditure for 2023–24	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Operating Account</i>						
700		<i>General non-recurrent</i>				
	801	Providing Public Wi-Fi services in Study Rooms and Youth Service Centres	25,300	15,401	3,200	6,699
	802	Expediting the Web3 ecosystem development in Hong Kong.....	50,000	—	35,800	14,200
	803	Digital Transformation Support Pilot Programme.....	500,000	—	395,000	105,000
	804	Incubation Programme for Smart Living Start-ups	265,000	—	85,000	180,000
	805	Scheme for Supporting the Development of Artificial Intelligence Ecosystem in Hong Kong ^δ	3,000,000 ^δ	—	—	3,000,000
	894	Enriched IT Programme in Schools [¶]	1,234,000 [¶]	399,137	198,490	636,373
		Total	5,074,300	414,538	717,490	3,942,272

^δ This is a new item, funding for which is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2024.

[¶] The approved commitment for the item was \$1,100 million. An increase in commitment of \$134 million is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2024.