

Head 135 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY BUREAU

Controlling officer: the Permanent Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2025–26 **\$269.7m**

Establishment ceiling 2025–26 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 70 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2025 reducing by one post to 69 posts as at 31 March 2026..... **\$52.0m**

In addition, there will be an estimated nine directorate posts as at 31 March 2025 and as at 31 March 2026.

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

Programme (1) Director of Bureau's Office This programme contributes to Policy Area 27: Intra-Governmental Services (Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry).

Programme (2) Innovation, Technology and Industry This programme contributes to Policy Area 17: Information Technology and Broadcasting (Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry).

Detail

Programme (1): Director of Bureau's Office

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	20.4	22.7	22.9 (+0.9%)	24.3 (+6.1%)
				(or +7.0% on 2024–25 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to ensure the smooth operation of the Office of the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry.

Brief Description

3 The Office of the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry is responsible for providing support to the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry in undertaking political work. This includes the support provided by the Under Secretary and the Political Assistant. The office is also responsible for providing administrative support to the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry in carrying out his duties. The work includes the planning, co-ordination and implementation of all arrangements for the Secretary's public, media and community functions.

Programme (2): Innovation, Technology and Industry

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	2025–26 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	178.4	251.1	210.7 (-16.1%)	245.4 (+16.5%)
				(or -2.3% on 2024–25 Original)

Aim

4 The aim is to promote sustained and diversified economic and social development through developing local innovation and technology industries, driving the upgrading and transformation of the overall economic structure, thereby enhancing Hong Kong's competitiveness and improving people's quality of life.

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Brief Description

5 The Bureau formulates holistic innovation and technology policies to foster the development of innovation and technology and related industries in Hong Kong.

6 The Bureau's main responsibilities are to:

- promote research and development (R&D) collaboration with the world's top-notch science and research institutes;
- promote "new industrialisation" through the development of smart production and industries of strategic importance;
- attract representative innovation and technology enterprises or those with potential to set up or expand their businesses in Hong Kong;
- promote measures that support technology start-ups;
- develop innovation and technology infrastructure;
- encourage private sector investments in innovation and technology industries;
- foster digital government and smart city development;
- develop Hong Kong into a Wi-Fi connected city and facilitate open data applications;
- promote the innovative application of technologies in improving people's daily life and addressing social issues;
- formulate policies to support the use of local technology products and services;
- formulate policies to augment the pool of innovation and technology talents; and
- encourage collaboration among institutions in developing innovation and technology.

7 In 2024–25, the Bureau:

- continued to take forward the major policies under four broad development directions as set out in the Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Development Blueprint;
- continued to liaise with representative innovation and technology enterprises or those with potential to set up or expand their businesses in Hong Kong;
- continued to implement the "Global STEM Professorship Scheme" and launched a sub-scheme for visiting professors on a pilot basis to strengthen support for local universities to attract world-renowned Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) scholars to work in Hong Kong;
- continued to oversee the work of *InnoHK* research clusters in the Hong Kong Science Park to foster international R&D collaboration;
- continued to monitor the implementation of enhanced tax deduction for expenditure incurred by enterprises on qualified R&D activities;
- oversaw the operation of the "Technology Talent Admission Scheme" to facilitate enterprises' engagement of overseas and Mainland R&D talents;
- oversaw the implementation of the "New Industrialisation Funding Scheme" (renamed from "Re-industrialisation Funding Scheme") and the "New Industrialisation Acceleration Scheme" to expedite "new industrialisation";
- continued to implement the "TechConnect (block vote)" to support technology projects of government departments to enhance operational efficiency and service quality;
- continued to monitor the implementation of funding schemes and support programmes under the "Innovation and Technology Fund";
- continued to monitor the implementation of the "Innovation and Technology Venture Fund" to stimulate private investment in local innovation and technology start-ups;
- commenced the preparation for setting up the Innovation and Technology Industry-Oriented Fund (ITIF) to channel more market capital to invest in specified emerging and future industries of strategic importance;
- continued to oversee the implementation of the "Research, Academic and Industry Sectors One-plus Scheme" to incentivise collaboration among industry, academic and research sectors and promote the transformation and commercialisation of R&D outcomes from universities;
- enhanced the external promotion and publication of the development of innovation and technology and "new industrialisation" in Hong Kong, and the explanation of relevant policy measures, so as to tell good stories of innovation and technology in Hong Kong together with other government bureaux and departments (B/Ds);

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- pressed ahead with the establishment of the “Hong Kong New Industrialisation Development Alliance”, pooling together talents and resources from various fields to establish a platform for the collaboration among the Government, industry, academia, R&D and investment sectors;
- signed the Co-operation Agreement on the Development of New Quality Productive Forces and the Promotion of New Industrialisation with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology to promote co-operation and joint development in industries where both places have clear advantages;
- set up the Digital Policy Office (DPO) and oversaw its work on strengthening information systems and data security of the Government and public organisations, enhancing data governance and implementation of the open data policy;
- continued to monitor the implementation of various smart city initiatives, including “iAM Smart” and “Digital Corporate Identity” (“CorpID”) Platform;
- monitored the implementation of the “Digital Transformation Support Pilot Programme” to promote digital transformation of small-and-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs);
- monitored the implementation of various initiatives by Cyberport including its expansion project and phased establishment of an artificial intelligence supercomputing centre;
- monitored the implementation of the “Artificial Intelligence Subsidy Scheme”, thereby fostering the development of the artificial intelligence ecosystem;
- oversaw the work of the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) in promoting innovation and technology development;
- supported the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area) into an international innovation and technology centre under the “Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People’s Republic of China and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035” (14th Five-Year Plan);
- published the Development Outline for Hong Kong Park of Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone (Hetao Co-operation Zone) and continued to take forward the development of Hong Kong Park (also known as Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park) of Hetao Co-operation Zone (including the setting up of InnoLife Healthtech Hub thereat);
- collaborated with Shenzhen Municipal People’s Government (SMPG) to promote the development of the “one zone, two parks” of the Hetao Co-operation Zone, which comprises the Hong Kong Park and the Shenzhen Park;
- continued to take forward the industry planning of the development of new land for innovation and technology use in the San Tin Technopole;
- continued to take forward the planning of the development of innovation and technology sites earmarked for data centre and related purposes in Sandy Ridge in the North District;
- promoted collaboration with Mainland and overseas science and research institutions;
- continued to provide support to local universities and research institutes to develop facilities for scientific research including overseeing the preparation work of setting up of the life and health technology research institute(s);
- formulated the implementation framework of the “Frontier Technology Research Support Scheme” and consulted stakeholders on the details of the proposal;
- promoted the orderly and safe cross-boundary data flow in the Greater Bay Area, including expanding the facilitation measure of the “standard contract” for the cross-boundary flow of personal information;
- continued to promote Cross-boundary Public Services together with the Guangdong Provincial Government; and
- provided secretariat support to the Committee on Innovation, Technology and Industry Development.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

8 During 2025–26, the Bureau will:

- continue to actively promote Hong Kong’s new opportunities to the Mainland and overseas, including collaboration with the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises to attract representative innovation and technology enterprises or those with potential to set up or expand their businesses in Hong Kong and top-notch innovation and technology talents to bring with them their business or R&D outcomes to Hong Kong;
- continue to implement the “Global STEM Professorship Scheme” to strengthen support for local universities to attract world-renowned STEM scholars to work in Hong Kong;

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- continue to oversee the work of *InnoHK* research clusters in the Hong Kong Science Park to foster collaboration with international science and research institutions and oversee the preparation for the establishment of the third *InnoHK* cluster;
- continue to oversee the implementation of the “New Industrialisation Funding Scheme” and the “New Industrialisation Acceleration Scheme” to expedite “new industrialisation”;
- continue to oversee the increase in the supply of advanced manufacturing space in InnoParks;
- commence a study on the medium to long-term development of new industrialisation in Hong Kong to encourage the traditional manufacturing sector to upgrade and transform by making use of innovation and technology and strengthen the support for relevant professional services sectors;
- continue to pool together talents and resources from various fields through the “Hong Kong New Industrialisation Development Alliance” to establish a platform for the collaboration among the Government, industry, academia, R&D and investment sectors;
- continue to oversee the implementation of the “City Innovation and Technology Grand Challenge”;
- continue to monitor the implementation of enhanced tax deduction for expenditure incurred by enterprises on qualified R&D activities;
- continue to monitor the implementation of the “Technology Talent Admission Scheme”;
- continue to monitor the implementation of funding schemes and support programmes under the “Innovation and Technology Fund”;
- continue to monitor the implementation of the “Innovation and Technology Venture Fund”;
- continue the preparation of setting up the ITIF to channel more market capital to invest in specified emerging and future industries of strategic importance;
- continue to monitor the implementation of the “Research, Academic and Industry Sectors One-plus Scheme”;
- continue to provide secretariat support to the Committee on Innovation, Technology and Industry Development;
- continue to collaborate with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology to follow up on the relevant work of the Co-operation Agreement on the Development of New Quality Productive Forces and the Promotion of New Industrialisation;
- continue to oversee the work of the DPO in formulating and implementing digital policies;
- continue to promote the adoption of innovation and technology by B/Ds through the Smart Government Innovation Lab and the “TechConnect (block vote)”;
- continue to facilitate the full adoption of “iAM Smart” by all departments to provide one-stop electronic services, and continue to oversee the work of developing the “CorpID” Platform;
- continue to monitor Cyberport’s implementation of the artificial intelligence supercomputing centre, expansion project and initiatives to support the information and communications technology industry and digital transformation of SMEs;
- continue the planning of the “Frontier Technology Research Support Scheme”;
- continue to implement facilitation measures to promote cross-boundary data flow within the Greater Bay Area;
- continue to press ahead with the development of Hong Kong Park of Hetao Co-operation Zone (including the setting up of InnoLife Healthtech Hub thereat) as set out in the Development Outline for Hong Kong Park of Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone;
- together with SMPG, continue to promote the development of the Hetao Co-operation Zone; and monitor the operation of the Shenzhen branch of Hong Kong Science Park in Shenzhen Park;
- continue to support the development of the Greater Bay Area into an international innovation and technology centre under the 14th Five-Year Plan;
- continue to take forward the planning of the development of innovation and technology sites earmarked for data centre and related purposes in Sandy Ridge in the North District;
- continue to support local universities and research institutes to develop facilities for scientific research, including overseeing the work for taking forward the setting up of the life and health technology research institute(s); and
- continue to take forward the planning of the development of new sites earmarked for innovation and technology uses.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

	2023–24 (Actual) (\$m)	2024–25 (Original) (\$m)	2024–25 (Revised) (\$m)	2025–26 (Estimate) (\$m)
Programme				
(1) Director of Bureau’s Office	20.4	22.7	22.9	24.3
(2) Innovation, Technology and Industry....	178.4	251.1	210.7	245.4
	198.8¶	273.8¶	233.6¶ (–14.7%)	269.7 (+15.5%)
				(or –1.5% on 2024–25 Original)

¶ For comparison purpose, the figures are adjusted to exclude the relevant provisions for the then Efficiency Office (original Programme (3) under this Head) which was transferred to Head 47 — Government Secretariat: Digital Policy Office with effect from 25 July 2024 due to the re-organisation of the then Office of the Government Chief Information Officer and the then Efficiency Office for the establishment of the DPO.

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

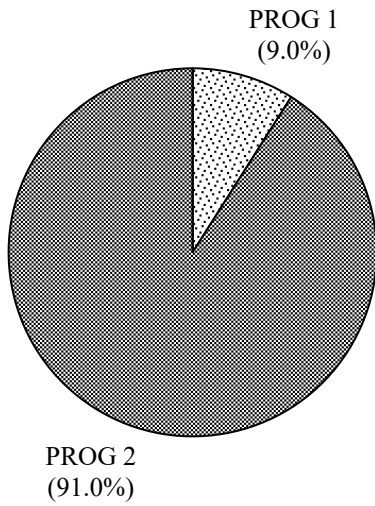
Programme (1)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$1.4 million (6.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the increased provision for personal emoluments and departmental expenses.

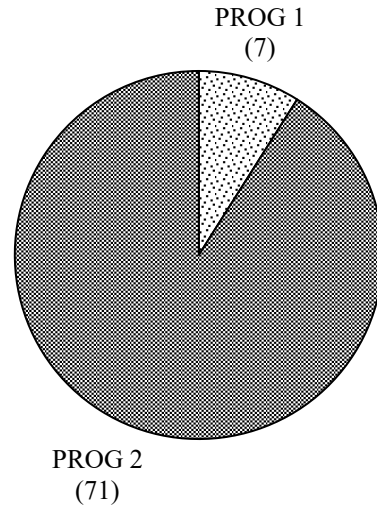
Programme (2)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$34.7 million (16.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for the TechConnect (block vote) and provision for departmental expenses. There will be a net decrease of one post in 2025–26.

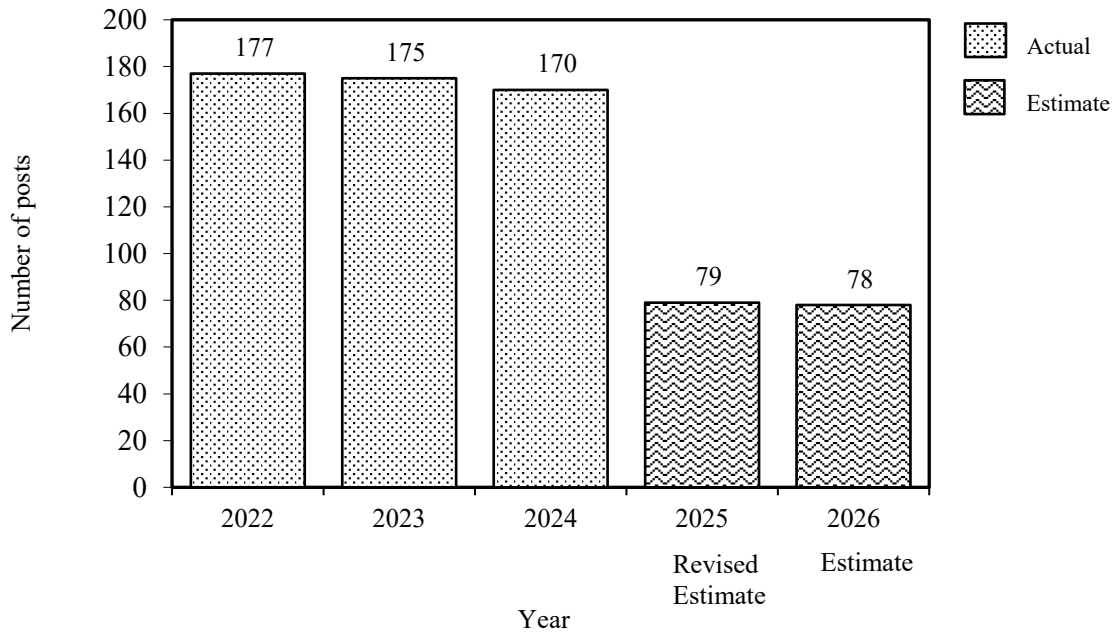
Allocation of provision to programmes (2025-26)



Staff by programme (as at 31 March 2026)



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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2023–24	Approved estimate 2024–25	Revised estimate 2024–25	Estimate 2025–26	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	419,593	480,593	243,500 Φ	175,587
	Total, Recurrent.....	419,593	480,593	243,500	175,587
Non-Recurrent					
	General non-recurrent	60,400	60,000	—	—
	Total, Non-Recurrent.....	60,400	60,000	—	—
	Total, Operating Account	479,993	540,593	243,500	175,587
Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
697	TechConnect (block vote).....	84,531	119,670	86,005	94,144
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	84,531	119,670	86,005	94,144
	Total, Capital Account.....	84,531	119,670	86,005	94,144
	Total Expenditure	564,524 Δ	660,263 Δ	329,505	269,731

Δ The figures reflect the 2023–24 actual expenditure and the 2024–25 approved estimate of Head 135 — Government Secretariat: Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau before the re-organisation.

Φ Includes relevant provisions for the then Efficiency Office up to 24 July 2024 before re-organisation. Remaining provisions for the then Efficiency Office have been transferred to Head 47 — Government Secretariat: Digital Policy Office with effect from 25 July 2024.

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2025–26 for the salaries and expenses of the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau (ITIB) is \$269,731,000. This represents a decrease of \$59,774,000 against the revised estimate for 2024–25 and \$294,793,000 against the actual expenditure in 2023–24.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$175,587,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of ITIB. The decrease of \$67,913,000 (27.9%) against the revised estimate for 2024–25 is mainly due to the transfer of relevant provisions for the then Efficiency Office to Head 47 — Government Secretariat: Digital Policy Office upon re-organisation with effect from 25 July 2024.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2025 will be 79 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of one post in 2025–26. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2025–26, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$52,021,000.

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

	2023–24 (Actual) (\$'000)	2024–25 (Original) (\$'000)	2024–25 (Revised) (\$'000)	2025–26 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries.....	151,761	168,902	100,396	73,863
- Allowances.....	6,144	5,600	2,996	1,526
- Job-related allowances.....	—	3	2	3
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	266	193	208	139
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	11,003	13,335	9,516	8,957
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	250,419	292,560	130,382	91,099
	419,593	480,593	243,500	175,587

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

5 Provision of \$94,144,000 under *Subhead 697 TechConnect (block vote)* is for providing funding support to bureaux and departments for implementing projects costing above \$200,000 but not exceeding \$10 million each with a view to improving the quality, efficiency or effectiveness of public services by the adoption of technology or to make use of technology to improve operations that will bring benefits to members of public.