

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

Controlling officer: the Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development will account for expenditure under this Head.

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Estimate 2025–26 | \$14,065.8m |
| <p>Establishment ceiling 2025–26 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 200 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2025 reducing by two posts to 198 posts as at 31 March 2026.....</p> | |
| | \$160.5m |
| <p>In addition, there will be an estimated 19 directorate posts as at 31 March 2025 reducing by one post to 18 posts as at 31 March 2026.</p> | |
| Commitment balance..... | \$265,639.5m |

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

| | |
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| Programme (1) Director of Bureau's Office | This programme contributes to Policy Area 27: Intra-Governmental Services (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development). |
| Programme (2) Commerce and Industry | This programme contributes to Policy Area 6: Commerce and Industry (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development). |
| Programme (3) Telecommunications Programme (4) Broadcasting | These programmes contribute to Policy Area 17: Information Technology and Broadcasting (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development). |
| Programme (5) Posts, Competition Policy and Consumer Protection | This programme contributes to Policy Area 4: Posts, Competition Policy and Consumer Protection (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development). |
| Programme (6) Subvention: Hong Kong Trade Development Council | This programme contributes to Policy Area 6: Commerce and Industry (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development). |
| Programme (7) Subvention: Consumer Council Programme (8) Subvention: Competition Commission | These programmes contribute to Policy Area 4: Posts, Competition Policy and Consumer Protection (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development). |

Detail

Programme (1): Director of Bureau's Office

| | 2023–24 (Actual) | 2024–25 (Original) | 2024–25 (Revised) | 2025–26 (Estimate) |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Financial provision (\$m) | 15.9 | 16.1 | 16.5 (+2.5%) | 16.8 (+1.8%) |
| | | | | (or +4.3% on 2024–25 Original) |

Aim

2 The aim is to ensure the smooth operation of the Office of the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development.

Brief Description

3 The Office of the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development is responsible for providing support to the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development 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 Commerce and Economic Development 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.

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

Programme (2): Commerce and Industry

| | 2023–24 (Actual) | 2024–25 (Original) | 2024–25 (Revised) | 2025–26 (Estimate) |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Financial provision (\$m) | 3,788.5 | 5,834.1 | 13,468.9 (+130.9%) | 12,909.1 (–4.2%) |
| | | | | (or +121.3% on 2024–25 Original) |

Aim

4 The aim is to enhance Hong Kong's role as an international trade centre under the National 14th Five-Year Plan. The Bureau seeks to encourage Hong Kong's trading partners, through multilateral, regional and bilateral means, to remove barriers to trade and investment; to promote Hong Kong's strengths so as to maintain international business confidence in Hong Kong; to develop Hong Kong as a competitive and knowledge-based economy by increasing the added value and productivity of Hong Kong's industries and enhancing the long-term competitiveness of small and medium enterprises (SMEs); to foster our trading and investment ties with the Mainland and support our businesses in seizing the opportunities created by the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA), particularly in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area), and the Belt and Road Initiative (B&RI); to attract external direct investment into Hong Kong and to foster economic and trade exchanges and co-operation with Taiwan; and to maintain a modern and comprehensive intellectual property (IP) regime which complies fully with international standards and develop Hong Kong into a regional IP trading centre in accordance with the National 14th Five-Year Plan.

Brief Description

5 The Bureau's main responsibilities under this programme are to:

- formulate policies on promotion of trade in goods and services;
- formulate policies to attract more external direct investment into Hong Kong;
- institute measures and arrangements to facilitate international trade and gain market access for Hong Kong's goods, services and investment, including through forging free trade agreements (FTAs) and investment promotion and protection agreements (IPPAs);
- oversee the policy work related to the overseas Economic and Trade Offices (ETOs), including enhancing their functions and expanding the ETO network;
- enhance economic co-operation with trading partners and foster friendship and understanding between the business communities of Hong Kong and our major markets;
- promote and safeguard market access of Hong Kong's goods and services through overseeing Hong Kong's active participation in the multilateral trading system, including seeking further trade liberalisations under the World Trade Organization (WTO);
- foster greater regional co-operation in the Asia-Pacific region through overseeing Hong Kong's active participation in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC);
- enhance mutually beneficial economic relationship between Hong Kong and the Mainland through CEPA;
- provide support to local businesses in developing overseas and Mainland domestic sales markets;
- formulate policies to support SMEs;
- lead and co-ordinate the work on the B&RI, including strategy formulation and implementation of programmes and measures with a view to seeking out Belt and Road (B&R)-related business opportunities;
- formulate policies on protection of IP rights and the development of Hong Kong into a regional IP trading centre;
- formulate policies and implementation proposals on the development of a trade single window (TSW) in Hong Kong; and
- support the further development of wine and liquor-related businesses in Hong Kong.

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

6 During 2024–25, the Bureau:

- continued to collaborate with various departments, agencies and stakeholders in conducting external promotion work to enhance Hong Kong’s position as an international trade centre and investment hub through our overseas network;
- continued to strengthen overseas ETOs’ support for and collaboration with various departments, agencies and stakeholders, including cultural promotion work in support of the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau, business and talent attraction work in support of the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises led by the Financial Secretary and Hong Kong Talent Engage under the Labour and Welfare Bureau;
- continued to oversee the work of Invest Hong Kong in stepping up efforts to attract more overseas and Mainland enterprises to set up and expand their businesses in Hong Kong;
- continued to closely monitor the bilateral trade relations between Mainland China and other economies such as the United States (US) and the European Union (EU) as well as their trade actions or other measures against Hong Kong and their impact on Hong Kong’s economy; and maintained close communication with the trade;
- continued to monitor the developments under the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism concerning the case against the US’ revised origin marking requirement on imported products originating from Hong Kong; and maintained close communication with the trade;
- oversaw participation in the work of the WTO, including safeguarding Hong Kong’s rights through contributing to the ongoing negotiations and discussions at the WTO, and monitoring and responding to trade restrictive measures which impacted on Hong Kong’s trade interests and posed systemic risks to the multilateral trading system;
- oversaw participation in the APEC for strengthening regional economic integration, promoting free and open trade and investment, as well as sustainability in the region and implementing the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, including through the Aotearoa Plan of Action;
- oversaw the conclusion and signing of an FTA with Peru, the intensified engagement with members of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) to consolidate support for Hong Kong’s early accession, and IPPA consultations/negotiations with, among others, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Peru and Egypt;
- oversaw the work of Invest Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) in establishing a high value-added supply chain services mechanism for Mainland enterprises seeking to establish international or regional headquarters in Hong Kong for managing offshore trading and supply chain;
- served as the Secretariat of the Working Group on Promoting Silver Economy led by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration, which commenced work in November 2024 in co-ordinating efforts of relevant bureaux to implement measures for developing silver economy in five areas;
- worked with the Trade and Industry Department (TID) to enhance the Dedicated Fund on Branding, Upgrading and Domestic Sales (BUD Fund), including launching “E-commerce Easy” in July 2024 to assist enterprises in developing the Mainland market through electronic commerce (e-commerce) business and extending the geographical scope of the BUD Fund to cover a total of 40 economies after signing the FTA with Peru in November 2024;
- worked with TID to enhance the SME Export Marketing Fund (EMF), including implementing the special measure to expand the funding scope of the EMF to 30 June 2026 to continue to cover exhibitions targeting the local market and online exhibitions, and to relax the eligibility criteria to cover non-SMEs;
- worked with HKTDC to launch the inaugural Hong Kong Shopping Festival (HKSF) in August 2024 to promote the awareness of Hong Kong brands and assist SMEs in developing the Mainland e-commerce market;
- worked with HKMC Insurance Limited, the administrator of the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme (SFGS), to enhance the SFGS, including relaunching the principal moratorium arrangement, extending the application and maximum loan guarantee periods as well as introducing partial principal repayment options for the 80% and 90% guarantee products, so as to alleviate the repayment burden on SMEs;
- continued to work with the Hong Kong Export Credit Insurance Corporation (HKECIC) to enhance export credit insurance coverage for exporters through measures such as increasing HKECIC’s maximum indemnity percentage from 90 per cent to 95 per cent, increasing the number of free buyer credit checks from 12 to 20 with the geographical coverage expanded from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to the Mainland and the Middle East and co-operating with more financial institutions to enhance support for exporters in acquiring trade financing relevant to e-commerce;
- continued to implement the Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme (PASS) to provide funding support for non-profit-making industry-led projects aimed at increasing exchanges and co-operation of Hong Kong’s professional services with their counterparts in external markets, promoting relevant publicity activities, and enhancing the standards and external competitiveness of Hong Kong’s professional services, including implementing the Professionals Participation Subsidy Programme (PSP) under PASS to subsidise major professional bodies to participate in relevant activities for stepping up promotion of Hong Kong’s professional services to the Mainland and overseas markets after the pandemic has stabilised;

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

- pursued actively the B&RI by organising business and professional services missions, including the Hong Kong cum Mainland business delegation co-led by the Belt and Road Office and the Ministry of Commerce to visit Hungary and Kazakhstan, and returned via Xinjiang, in May 2024; furthering policy co-ordination with the Central Authorities through the seventh Joint Conference on Advancing Hong Kong's Full Participation in and Contribution to the Belt and Road Initiative (Joint Conference) held in July 2024; organising the ninth Belt and Road Summit in September 2024 which attracted around 6 000 government officials, business leaders and representatives of enterprises; organising the B&R cross-professional forum in February 2025 to facilitate exploring opportunities in new fields of co-operation for Hong Kong professionals services; and organising a series of exchange and sharing sessions/seminars to promote partnership and project interfacing amongst local professional services sector, chambers of commerce, and enterprises from the Mainland, overseas and Hong Kong;
- supervised discussions with the Mainland on further market liberalisation and facilitation of trade and investment through CEPA, and on ensuring smooth implementation of the measures announced;
- worked with relevant bureaux and HKTDC to jointly organise the Hong Kong Investment Promotion Conferences in Beijing and Shanghai in September and November 2024 respectively, to promote Hong Kong's unique advantages and favourable business environment for Mainland enterprises to develop their businesses and go global;
- collaborated with the Mainland authorities and HKTDC to help Hong Kong enterprises develop the Mainland domestic sales market, including through the support of HKTDC's one-stop platform "GoGBA" and its network of "GoGBA Business Support Centres" in the Mainland cities in the Greater Bay Area;
- co-ordinated through HKTDC the participation of the Hong Kong enterprises in the seventh China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai to promote Hong Kong products and services to the Mainland market, and to introduce Hong Kong's role as a gateway under the national "dual circulation" strategy;
- continued to oversee the implementation of a series of initiatives to develop Hong Kong into a regional IP trading centre;
- continued to oversee the implementation of the Original Grant Patent (OGP) system and enhancement of the substantive examination capability of patent examiners under the system;
- continued to forge ahead with the preparatory work for the implementation of the international trade mark registration system under the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks (Madrid Protocol) in Hong Kong, including preparing the related subsidiary legislation and completing the set up of the required information technology (IT) system;
- continued to oversee efforts to promote awareness of and respect for IP rights in the community and the business sector;
- conducted a public consultation to explore further enhancement to the Copyright Ordinance (Cap. 528) regarding the protection for artificial intelligence (AI) technology development;
- launched a review of the registered designs regime with a view to commencing consultation on the way forward in updating the regime;
- brought the Inland Revenue (Amendment) (Tax Concessions for Intellectual Property Income) Ordinance 2024 into operation to implement the "patent box" tax incentive;
- oversaw the work of the Intellectual Property Department (IPD) in leading the discussion with the patent agent sector and stakeholders to plan for the introduction of regulatory arrangements for local patent agent services;
- oversaw IPD in making preparations for establishing a Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC) in relation to IP in Hong Kong under a dedicated programme run by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO);
- continued to work on the planning for new convention and exhibition facilities to maintain and consolidate the international status of Hong Kong's convention and exhibition industry;
- continued to implement the Incentive Scheme for Recurrent Exhibitions (ISRE);
- continued to take forward the development of TSW Phase 3 IT system, including completing system analysis and design, and commencing system development;
- continued to oversee measures taken by the Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) to enhance cargo clearance efficiency and expedite cross-boundary cargo flow, including the Single E-lock Scheme (SELS), the Hong Kong Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programme, the Free Trade Agreement Transshipment Facilitation Scheme (FTA Scheme) and the Cross-boundary Express Cargo Clearance Facilitation Arrangement (CEFA); and
- introduced a two-tier duty system for liquor and continued to implement measures to underpin the further development of wine-related businesses in Hong Kong, including wine trade promotion and the facilitation scheme for wine re-exports to the Mainland.

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

7 In 2025–26, the Bureau will:

- continue to step up global promotion of Hong Kong's business advantages, strengthen outreach to investors and attract multinational companies to set up regional or global operations in Hong Kong so as to capitalise on the opportunities arising from the National 14th Five-Year Plan, the Greater Bay Area development and B&RI;
- continue to collaborate with various departments, agencies and stakeholders in conducting external promotion work to enhance Hong Kong's international image in trade and investment, cultural promotion, and talent attraction in support of other bureaux/offices through our overseas network;
- continue to strengthen policy work related to overseas ETOs, including enhancing their functions and expanding the ETO network;
- continue to monitor developments on various regional economic integration initiatives and explore opportunities for Hong Kong's participation, including seeking early accession to RCEP;
- continue to oversee discussions or negotiations with trading partners on enhancement of economic co-operation, including the pursuit of IPPA initiatives with, among others, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Peru and Egypt;
- continue to oversee collaboration among agencies responsible for promoting trade and inward investment;
- continue to closely monitor the bilateral trade relations between Mainland China and other economies such as the US and the EU as well as their trade actions or other measures related to Hong Kong, and assess their impact on Hong Kong's economy; and maintain close communication with the trade;
- continue to monitor the developments under the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism concerning the case against the US' revised origin marking requirement on imported products originating from Hong Kong; and continue to maintain close communication with the trade;
- continue to oversee participation in the work of the WTO, including participation in the Fourteenth WTO Ministerial Conference, safeguarding Hong Kong's rights through contributing to the ongoing negotiations and discussions at the WTO, and monitoring and responding to trade restrictive measures which impacted on Hong Kong's trade interests and posed systemic risks to the multilateral trading system;
- continue to oversee participation in the work of the APEC;
- continue to oversee the work of Invest Hong Kong and HKTDC in providing high value-added supply chain services for Mainland enterprises seeking to establish international or regional headquarters in Hong Kong for managing offshore trading and supply chain;
- continue to serve as the Secretariat of the Working Group on Promoting Silver Economy led by the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration, which co-ordinates efforts of relevant bureaux to implement measures for developing silver economy in five areas;
- continue to work with TID and the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) to step up the promotion of government funding schemes and strengthen support to SMEs in capacity building;
- continue to work with TID and HKPC to implement the BUD Fund to support Hong Kong enterprises in developing their brands, upgrading and restructuring their operations and promoting sales on the Mainland and other FTA and/or IPPA markets, expand the geographical coverage of "E-commerce Easy" to the ten ASEAN countries, and provide targeted funding support for enterprises to implement green transformation projects;
- continue to work with TID to implement the EMF to support Hong Kong enterprises in exploring the Mainland, overseas and local markets;
- continue to co-ordinate bureaux and departments in formulating policies and measures on the development of cross-border e-commerce, including working with HKTDC to launch HKSF on e-commerce platforms, set up more Hong Kong Pavilions or brand showcases in Mainland and overseas exhibitions to promote Hong Kong brands and assist SMEs in developing non-local e-commerce markets, as well as working with TID and HKTDC to enhance support for SMEs to develop brands and e-commerce business through mentorship programme and consultation services;
- review existing procedures to enhance the efficiency of cross-border goods' distribution, with a view to developing Hong Kong into a cross-border e-commerce logistics and distribution centre;
- continue to work with HKMC Insurance Limited to implement the SFGS to help ease the cash flow problem of SMEs;
- continue to work with HKECIC to enhance export credit insurance coverage for exporters through various support measures;
- continue to implement PASS to provide funding support for non-profit-making projects undertaken by non-profit distributing organisations, including implementing the PSP to subsidise major professional bodies to participate in relevant activities;

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

- continue to proactively consolidate Hong Kong’s unique advantages and positioning as the functional platform for the B&RI by reinforcing co-operation with relevant Mainland authorities and maintaining ties with other stakeholders and governments along the B&R, including convening the eighth Joint Conference with the Central Authorities; organising the tenth Belt and Road Summit and to assist Hong Kong enterprises to interface with enterprises from the Mainland and B&R countries to jointly explore business opportunities; promoting B&R capacity building platforms in Hong Kong;
- continue to oversee efforts for seeking better market access and facilitation of trade and investment on the Mainland through CEPA, especially in strategic locations such as the Greater Bay Area and Hainan;
- continue to collaborate with the Mainland authorities and HKTDC to help Hong Kong enterprises promote their products and services to the Mainland market;
- continue to co-ordinate Hong Kong’s participation in CIIE;
- continue to oversee the implementation of a series of initiatives to develop Hong Kong into a regional IP trading centre;
- continue to oversee the implementation of the OGP system and enhancement of the substantive examination capability of patent examiners under the system;
- continue to oversee efforts to promote awareness of and respect for IP rights in the community and the business sector;
- continue to forge ahead with the preparatory work for implementing the Madrid Protocol in Hong Kong and strive for the implementation of the international trade mark registration system as soon as possible;
- put forward a proposal to enhance the Copyright Ordinance regarding the protection for AI technology development;
- launch a consultation in 2025 on the way forward in updating the registered designs regime;
- propose legislative amendments to streamline IP litigation processes for the High Court;
- participate in the WIPO Lex-Judgments Database, sharing important IP case precedents of local courts, so as to showcase to the international community the quality of our IP-related judicial judgments;
- continue to oversee the work of IPD in leading the discussions with the patent agent sector and stakeholders to plan for the introduction of regulatory arrangements for local patent agent services;
- continue to oversee IPD in establishing the WIPO TISC in Hong Kong;
- table subsidiary legislation under the Copyright Ordinance in the Legislative Council within 2025 to specify libraries, museums and archives eligible for certain permitted acts and prescribe the conditions, and to designate non-government-owned libraries, museums or archives that can be exempted from certain criminal liabilities;
- continue to plan for new convention and exhibition facilities to maintain and consolidate the international status of Hong Kong’s convention and exhibition industry;
- launch ISRE 2.0 which will target new and international exhibitions of large scale with a view to further promoting mega event economy and the development of the convention and exhibition industry;
- continue to take forward the development of TSW Phase 3 IT system with a target of rolling out the services by batches from 2026 onwards;
- continue to oversee the work of C&ED in promoting SELS, the Hong Kong AEO Programme, FTA Scheme and CEFA to the trade, and in further extending the coverage of SELS and FTA Scheme as well as Hong Kong’s network of AEO mutual recognition arrangement with other economies; and
- continue to support the further development of wine and liquor-related businesses in Hong Kong.

Programme (3): Telecommunications

| | 2023–24 (Actual) | 2024–25 (Original) | 2024–25 (Revised) | 2025–26 (Estimate) |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Financial provision (\$m) | 272.3 | 307.0 | 122.6 (–60.1%) | 260.1 (+112.2%) |
| | | | | (or –15.3% on 2024–25 Original) |

Aim

8 The aim is to facilitate the development of the telecommunications industry and enhance Hong Kong’s position as a telecommunication hub.

Brief Description

9 The Bureau's main responsibility under this programme is to formulate telecommunications policies and programmes to facilitate effective competition, enhance consumer choice and promote investments in the development of a competitive, advanced and high bandwidth infrastructure accessible by the consumers through wireline or wireless means. This will enhance Hong Kong's position as a world-class telecommunications centre.

10 During 2024–25, the Bureau:

- worked with the Communications Authority (CA) to review and release radio spectrum in various frequency bands for the provision of public mobile services including the fifth generation mobile (5G) and beyond services;
- worked with CA to facilitate wider deployment of frequency spectrum in the 3.5 GHz band for the provision of 5G services;
- worked with CA to conduct a public consultation and decide on the arrangements for re-assignment of 50 MHz of frequency spectrum in the 2.5/2.6 GHz band and related spectrum utilization fee upon the expiry of the existing assignments in 2028, as well as administratively assigned 1 200 MHz of frequency spectrum in 26/28 GHz bands;
- worked with the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) to enhance mobile communications infrastructure, including facilitating mobile network operators (MNOs)' applications for installation of radio base stations in suitable government premises, major public event venues and public facilities;
- implemented the amended Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106) to ensure that appropriate space would be made available in specified new buildings for installation of mobile communications facilities to encourage MNO's investment in communications infrastructure;
- worked with OFCA to implement a subsidy scheme to encourage the extension of optical fibre networks to villages in rural and remote areas so as to further enhance the higher speed fixed broadband network coverage;
- worked with OFCA to proactively co-ordinate with MNOs and finalise the framework of providing subsidies to enhance the mobile network coverage in rural and remote areas in accordance with the 2023 Policy Address;
- monitored the effectiveness of measures for safeguarding consumers' interests;
- monitored the implementation and effectiveness of the legislation in facilitating market competition and the fair trading practices of telecommunications and broadcasting licensees;
- oversaw the implementation of the Real-name Registration Programme for Subscriber Identification Module (SIM) Cards and worked with OFCA to introduce a legislative amendment proposal to prohibit the resale of registered SIM cards;
- worked with OFCA to combat scam calls and messages jointly with law enforcement agencies through a multi-pronged approach so as to safeguard the integrity of telecommunications services and the security of communications networks;
- worked with OFCA to encourage organisations in more trades/industries to join the SMS Sender Registration Scheme in order to assist the public in ascertaining the authenticity of SMS sender addresses; and
- worked with OFCA to commence a study on streamlining the vetting procedures of licence applications for operating Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites in accordance with the 2024 Policy Address.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

11 During 2025–26, the Bureau will continue to:

- work with CA to conduct the auction for the re-assignment of 50 MHz of frequency spectrum in the 2.5/2.6 GHz band;
- work with OFCA to enhance mobile communications infrastructure including facilitating MNOs' applications for installation of radio base stations in suitable government premises, major public event venues and public facilities;
- oversee the implementation of the amended Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106) to ensure that appropriate space is made available in specified new buildings for installation of mobile communications facilities;
- work with OFCA to implement a subsidy scheme to encourage the extension of optical fibre networks to villages in rural and remote areas so as to further enhance the higher speed fixed broadband network coverage;
- work with OFCA to implement a subsidy scheme to extend 5G coverage in rural and remote areas to enhance the mobile network coverage in rural and remote areas in accordance with the 2023 Policy Address;
- monitor the effectiveness of measures for safeguarding consumers' interests;

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

- monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the legislation in facilitating market competition and the fair trading practices of the telecommunications and broadcasting licensees;
- monitor the implementation of the Real-name Registration Programme for SIM Cards and implement relevant enhancements;
- work with OFCA to combat scam calls and messages jointly with law enforcement agencies through a multi-pronged approach so as to safeguard the integrity of telecommunications services and the security of communications networks;
- work with OFCA to encourage organisations in more trades/industries to join the SMS Sender Registration Scheme in order to assist the public in ascertaining the authenticity of SMS sender addresses; and
- work with OFCA to complete in 2025 the study on streamlining the vetting procedures of licence applications for operating LEO satellites in accordance with the 2024 Policy Address.

Programme (4): Broadcasting

| | 2023–24 (Actual) | 2024–25 (Original) | 2024–25 (Revised) | 2025–26 (Estimate) |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Financial provision (\$m) | 26.0 | 8.5 | 21.4 (+151.8%) | 12.8 (–40.2%) |
| | | | | (or +50.6% on 2024–25 Original) |

Aim

12 The aim is to promote the development of broadcasting and enhance Hong Kong's position as a broadcasting capital.

Brief Description

13 The Bureau's main responsibilities under this programme are to formulate policies on broadcasting, control of obscene and indecent articles, and film censorship; and to promote the development of the broadcasting industry.

14 The key performance is measured by the extent to which the policy objectives have been achieved and the progress made in implementing the various policy commitments. It is also reflected by the extent to which the executive departments have accomplished their programmes efficiently and cost-effectively.

15 During 2024–25, the Bureau:

- assisted in the licensing and regulatory matters in relation to the domestic free television programme services, domestic pay television programme services and sound broadcasting services; and
- continued to oversee Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) in fulfilling its mission as a public service broadcaster.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

16 During 2025–26, the Bureau will:

- work with CA for the conduct of the licence renewal exercises for various TV and sound broadcasting licensees with licences expiring between 2027 and 2028; and
- continue to oversee RTHK in fulfilling its mission as a public service broadcaster.

Programme (5): Posts, Competition Policy and Consumer Protection

| | 2023–24 (Actual) | 2024–25 (Original) | 2024–25 (Revised) | 2025–26 (Estimate) |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Financial provision (\$m) | 10.1 | 20.1 | 20.1 (—) | 10.2 (–49.3%) |
| | | | | (or –49.3% on 2024–25 Original) |

Aim

17 The aims are to promote economic efficiency in the delivery of postal services; to promote competition; and to protect consumer interests.

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

Brief Description

18 The Bureau's main responsibilities under this programme are to formulate policies and programmes in relation to postal services, the promotion of economic efficiency and free market through competition, and the protection of consumer interests.

19 During 2024–25, the Bureau:

- monitored the implementation of the Competition Ordinance (Cap. 619) (CO);
- published the annual report of the Competition Policy Advisory Group (COMPAG) for the year 2023 on the COMPAG website, and continued to co-ordinate the work of government bureaux and departments in promoting competition;
- monitored the implementation of the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (Cap. 362) in tackling unfair trade practices that may be deployed in consumer transactions;
- embarked on a review of proposals for offering better protection to consumers who make prepayments;
- monitored the operation of the Post Office Trading Fund (POTF) and worked with Hongkong Post (HKP) on measures to improve POTF's financial position; and
- monitored the projects to re-provision the HKP's Headquarters and redevelop the Air Mail Centre (AMC).

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

20 During 2025–26, the Bureau will continue to:

- monitor the implementation of the CO in tackling anti-competitive conduct in different sectors;
- support the work of COMPAG;
- consider the way forward for offering better protection to consumers who make prepayments;
- monitor the implementation of the Trade Descriptions Ordinance in tackling unfair trade practices that may be deployed in consumer transactions;
- monitor the operation of POTF and work with HKP on measures to improve POTF's financial position; and
- monitor the project to redevelop the AMC.

Programme (6): Subvention: Hong Kong Trade Development Council

| | 2023–24 (Actual) | 2024–25 (Original) | 2024–25 (Revised) | 2025–26 (Estimate) |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Financial provision (\$m) | 640.2 | 551.4 | 551.4 (—) | 508.7 (-7.7%) |
| | | | | (or -7.7% on 2024–25 Original) |

Aim

21 The aim is to help HKTDC perform its statutory functions, i.e. to promote, assist and develop Hong Kong's trade with places outside Hong Kong, with particular reference to exports; and to make recommendations to the Government as it sees fit in relation to any measures which it considers would achieve an increase in Hong Kong's trade.

Brief Description

22 Established in 1966, HKTDC is a statutory body to promote Hong Kong's external trade in goods and services, and to promote the city's role as an international business hub. With 51 offices globally, including 13 on the Mainland, HKTDC:

- promotes Hong Kong as a platform for doing business with the Mainland and worldwide, as a commercial hub for the B&RI, and as a two-way platform for the Greater Bay Area and a facilitation hub for ASEAN and RCEP;
- organises international trade fairs and industry conferences, international trade promotion events and business missions to help Hong Kong companies seize opportunities on the Mainland and around the world, as well as operates a virtual event platform and a sourcing platform to complement its physical events;
- provides market information through hktdc.com, research reports and its research portal, and a market intelligence website "Hong Kong Means Business" and a one-stop platform "GoGBA" that gives business wide-ranging support to help tap into Greater Bay Area opportunities;

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

- runs support programmes to help start-ups and SMEs enhance their capabilities and market expansion; and
- reinforces Hong Kong as a global marketplace in the Asia-Pacific region through corporate relations and business promotion activities around the world, including support for six bilateral committees and 48 Hong Kong business associations in 37 countries and regions.

23 The key performance measures in respect of promoting Hong Kong's external trade are:

Indicators

| | 2023 (Actual) | 2024 (Actual) | 2025 (Estimate) |
|---|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| trade and services promotion | | | |
| events | 634 | 655 | 660 |
| companies participating | 69 397 | 76 767 | 75 300 |
| local fairs | | | |
| no. of Mainland and overseas buyers | 318 156 | 387 786 | 387 800 |
| no. of fairs | 39 | 37 | 37 |
| business-matching enquiries worldwide | | | |
| no. of business enquiries handled | 3 553 253 | 3 573 843 | 3 590 000 |
| no. of business connections made | 21 173 280 | 21 820 911 | 21 900 000 |
| trade portal (hktdc.com) | | | |
| no. of new registered users..... | 430 565@ | 257 417@ | 260 000 |
| no. of visits to online sourcing platform | 13 822 622 | 14 161 988 | 14 200 000 |
| no. of advertisers | 22 776 | 28 387 | 27 000 |

@ There was a significant surge in the number of new registered users in 2023 mainly due to the increase in the number of buyers and HKTDC's introduction of the e-Badge service system upon the resumption of physical fairs after the pandemic. As users are only required to register on the system once for continued access to the full range of HKTDC's services, the growth rate in the number of new registered users slowed down in 2024.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

24 In 2025–26, HKTDC will:

- help Hong Kong and international businesses capitalise on the promising opportunities offered by the National 14th Five-Year Plan with the Greater Bay Area development as a central theme;
- position Hong Kong as the ideal two-way business hub for the Greater Bay Area, ASEAN and the wider RCEP with the rest of the world;
- support SMEs and start-ups to grow and transform amid the world's new digital and sustainability agenda;
- provide support services to enterprises having established international or regional headquarters in Hong Kong for managing offshore trading and supply chain in collaboration with Invest Hong Kong and through the overseas offices under HKTDC;
- promote awareness of Hong Kong brands, including silver product brands on Mainland e-commerce platforms to develop the national domestic sales market;
- complement the Government's efforts in promoting the development of silver economy by incorporating "silver economy" elements into more trade fairs and exhibitions to enhance the promotion of relevant products and services;
- promote Hong Kong as a multifaceted investment, trade and innovation hub to the international audience;
- reinforce Hong Kong's position as the business and deal-making hub in Asia with a focus on new sectors such as healthcare and sustainability to facilitate opportunities; and
- offer an enriched fair and conference experience, enhance the sourcing journey and facilitate business matching and deal-making with digital technologies.

**Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT BUREAU**

Programme (7): Subvention: Consumer Council

| | 2023–24 (Actual) | 2024–25 (Original) | 2024–25 (Revised) | 2025–26 (Estimate) |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Financial provision (\$m) | 154.7 | 149.5 | 152.0 (+1.7%) | 160.5 (+5.6%) |
| | | | | (or +7.4% on 2024–25 Original) |

Aim

25 The aim is to protect and promote the interests of consumers of goods and services.

Brief Description

26 The Consumer Council (the Council) is an independent body established under the Consumer Council Ordinance (Cap. 216). The Council discharges its functions by:

- collecting, receiving and disseminating information concerning goods, services and immovable property;
- examining complaints and giving advice to consumers;
- tendering advice to the Government on ways to enhance consumer protection;
- conducting product tests and research;
- encouraging business and professional associations to establish codes of practice to regulate the activities of their members;
- monitoring trade practices;
- facilitating consumers to seek redress through the use of the Consumer Legal Action Fund; and
- empowering consumers through education and publicity campaigns.

27 The key performance measures in respect of protection and promotion of consumer interests are:

Targets

| | Target | 2023 (Actual) | 2024 (Actual) | 2025 (Plan) |
|--|--------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| handling consumer enquiries | | | | |
| telephone calls answered within three minutes (%) | 80 | 94 | 100 | 80 |
| waiting time for over-the-counter enquiry service not to exceed ten minutes (%)..... | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| issuing reply in writing within ten working days (%)..... | 100 | 98 | 89# | 100 |
| handling consumer complaints | | | | |
| telephone calls answered within three minutes (%) | 80 | 95 | 100 | 80 |
| in writing | | | | |
| issuing preliminary reply within five working days (%)..... | 100 | 98 | 99 | 100 |
| notifying complainants of results/progress within nine working days (%)..... | 100 | 99 | 100 | 100 |
| publications of “CHOICE” and release of product testing, research and survey results once per month (%)..... | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Only 89 per cent of the enquiries could meet the target owing to the sudden surge in the number of cases from various consumer dispute incidents in 2024.

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

Indicators

| | 2023 (Actual) | 2024 (Actual) | 2025 (Estimate) |
|---|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| consumer complaints..... | 34 155 | 40 839 | 38 000 |
| consumer enquiries..... | 57 645 | 57 613 | 59 000 |
| product tests^..... | 41 | 37 | 34^μ |
| consumer surveys^..... | 29 | 28 | 20^μ |
| in-depth studies^..... | 15 | 15 | 17 |
| studies of general interest^..... | 72 | 48 | 48 |
| response to consultation from the Government and other public bodies [⊙] | 17 | 11 | 10 |
| consumer education programmes..... | 285 | 282 | 200[#] |
| circulation of publications..... | 219 550 | 168 000 | 108 000[@] |

^ Each year, the Council conducts product tests, consumer surveys, in-depth studies and studies of general interest. Manpower and resources are deployed in accordance with the respective resource demands of researches and studies scheduled for the year. The figures for the indicators are estimated having regard to a broad range of factors such as the time required by the laboratories to complete the product tests and the complexity of the subject matters.

μ Enhanced guidelines and procedures for conducting tests and surveys have been implemented by the Council for additional safeguards on the accuracy and quality of the findings. Hence, more time is required for each test and survey to complete, and a smaller number of tests and surveys is estimated for 2025.

⊙ The number of responses to consultation depends on the number of consultations conducted by the Government and other public bodies during the year. The figure for the coming year is an indicative forecast only.

The number of consumer educational programmes is adjusted downwards mainly owing to the preparation for the revamp of the education programme for primary students in 2025.

@ “CHOICE” will be disseminated for free on the Council’s website starting from January 2025. As a transitional arrangement, the Council will continue to distribute complimentary printed copies of “CHOICE” to elderly centres, libraries, schools, shopping malls, etc. to cater for the needs of certain groups of readers (e.g. the elderly).

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

28 During 2025–26, the Council will:

- complement the Government’s efforts in promoting the development of silver economy by stepping up efforts to safeguard the rights and interests of elderly consumers;
- launch the revamped Complaint Case Management System, which will enhance the Council’s efficiency to handle and analyse complaint cases and statistics; and
- continue to upgrade the Council’s network infrastructure and cybersecurity systems.

Programme (8): Subvention: Competition Commission

| | 2023–24 (Actual) | 2024–25 (Original) | 2024–25 (Revised) | 2025–26 (Estimate) |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Financial provision (\$m) | 137.0 | 182.4 | 197.0 (+8.0%) | 187.6 (–4.8%) |
| | | | | (or +2.9% on 2024–25 Original) |

Aim

29 The aim is to help the Competition Commission (the Commission) to implement the CO.

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

Brief Description

30 The Commission is an independent statutory body established under the CO in 2013. The Commission's statutory functions are to:

- investigate conduct that may contravene the competition rules and enforce the provisions of the CO;
- promote public understanding of the value of competition and how the CO promotes competition;
- promote the adoption by undertakings carrying on business in Hong Kong of appropriate internal controls and risk management systems, to ensure their compliance with the CO;
- advise the Government on competition matters in Hong Kong and outside Hong Kong;
- conduct market studies into matters affecting competition in markets in Hong Kong; and
- promote research into and the development of skills in relation to the legal, economic and policy aspects of competition law in Hong Kong.

31 The key performance measures are:

Targets

| | Target | 2023 (Actual) | 2024 (Actual) | 2025 (Plan) |
|--|--------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| handling enquiries and complaints | | | | |
| acknowledge enquiries or complaints within two working days of receipt (%) | 95 | 100 | 100 | 95 |
| reply to enquiries or complaints on the result or progress within 28 working days of receipt (%) | 95 | 100 | 100 | 95 |
| handling applications for Decisions and Block Exemption Orders | | | | |
| acknowledge applications within two working days of receipt (%) | 95 | N.A. | N.A. | 95 |
| respond to requests for fee waiver or reduction within seven working days of receipt (%)..... | 95 | N.A. | N.A. | 95 |
| handling requests for seminars and presentations | | | | |
| acknowledge requests within two working days of receipt (%) | 95 | 99 | 99 | 95 |
| respond to requests within ten working days of receipt (%) | 95 | 99 | 99 | 95 |

Indicators

| | 2023 (Actual) | 2024 (Actual) | 2025 (Estimate) |
|---|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| enforcement | | | |
| enquiries received | 422 | 380 | 350 |
| complaints received..... | 311 | 319 | 300 |
| initial assessments commenced Ψ | 17 | 7 | — \wedge |
| cases escalated to in-depth investigation Δ | 3 | 4 | — \wedge |
| cases brought to the Competition Tribunal | 3 | 0 | — \wedge |
| cases resolved by Commitments, issuing of Infringement Notices and Warning Notices..... | 1 | 0 | — \wedge |
| applications for Decisions and Block Exemption Orders received..... | 0 | 0 | — \wedge |
| major market study launched | 0 | 0 | 1 \S |

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

| | 2023 (Actual) | 2024 (Actual) | 2025 (Estimate) |
|---|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| publicity and advocacy | | | |
| major publicity or education campaigns launched..... | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| events, seminars, conferences and exhibitions conducted..... | 55 | 60 | 60λ |
| major international events, seminars and conferences participated in | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| newsletters published | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| outreach on online platforms..... | 170 | 170 | 170λ |

Ψ The Commission considers all complaints it receives and escalates those that merit further assessment into the initial assessment phase. Enquiries which present merit for further assessment will also be escalated into the initial assessment phase. Pursuant to the CO, the Commission does not investigate complaints that are misconceived, lacking in substance, trivial, frivolous or vexatious.

^ Not possible to estimate.

Δ Where following initial assessment the Commission has reasonable cause to suspect a contravention of a competition rule under the CO, the Commission will commence an in-depth investigation.

§ Subject to accessibility of sufficient data/information.

λ The numbers are indicative only and are subject to any necessary adjustments of the publicity and advocacy strategy to tally with the enforcement activities, enforcement/litigation outcomes and other ad hoc initiatives during the year. This will lead to corresponding changes in resource allocation and hence the numbers as indicated.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26

32 During 2025–26, the Commission will:

- continue to handle complaints of and conduct investigations into cases alleging to contravene a competition rule and to escalate suitable cases to in-depth investigation;
- continue the in-depth investigation with the aim to settling suitable cases by issuing commitments, infringement notices or warning notices, or bringing cases to the Competition Tribunal;
- continue the litigation processes for cases already brought to the Competition Tribunal;
- continue to promote understanding and compliance of the CO by businesses and the public through campaigns, education programmes, outreach activities, publications, seminars, presentations and online platforms;
- continue to consider applications for Decisions whether or not an agreement or conduct is excluded or exempt from the First or Second Conduct Rules and for Block Exemption Orders; and
- continue to advise the Government and public bodies on competition matters.

**Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT BUREAU**

ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

| Programme | 2023–24 (Actual) (\$m) | 2024–25 (Original) (\$m) | 2024–25 (Revised) (\$m) | 2025–26 (Estimate) (\$m) |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| (1) Director of Bureau’s Office | 15.9 | 16.1 | 16.5 | 16.8 |
| (2) Commerce and Industry | 3,788.5 | 5,834.1 | 13,468.9 | 12,909.1 |
| (3) Telecommunications | 272.3 | 307.0 | 122.6 | 260.1 |
| (4) Broadcasting | 26.0 | 8.5 | 21.4 | 12.8 |
| (5) Posts, Competition Policy and Consumer Protection | 10.1 | 20.1 | 20.1 | 10.2 |
| (6) Subvention: Hong Kong Trade Development Council | 640.2 | 551.4 | 551.4 | 508.7 |
| (7) Subvention: Consumer Council | 154.7 | 149.5 | 152.0 | 160.5 |
| (8) Subvention: Competition Commission | 137.0 | 182.4 | 197.0 | 187.6 |
| | <u>5,044.7</u> | <u>7,069.1</u> | <u>14,549.9</u> (+105.8%) | <u>14,065.8</u> (–3.3%) |
| | | | | (or +99.0% on 2024–25 Original) |

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$0.3 million (1.8%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the increased provision for operational expenses.

Programme (2)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$559.8 million (4.2%) lower than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the decreased cash flow requirement for the SFGS – Guarantee Products. Besides, there will be a net decrease of one post under this Programme in 2025–26.

Programme (3)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$137.5 million (112.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for the Subsidy Scheme to Extend Fibre-based Networks to Villages in Remote Areas and the new cash flow requirement for Subsidy Scheme to Extend 5G Coverage in Rural and Remote Areas. Besides, there will be a net decrease of one post under this Programme in 2025–26.

Programme (4)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$8.6 million (40.2%) lower than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the lapse of a one-off provision to RTHK in 2024–25 for enhancement of its mission as the public service broadcaster of Hong Kong. Besides, there will be a net decrease of one post under this Programme in 2025–26.

Programme (5)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$9.9 million (49.3%) lower than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the completion of a one-off injection of \$10 million into the Consumer Legal Action Fund in 2024–25.

Programme (6)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$42.7 million (7.7%) lower than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the lapse of a time-limited recurrent subvention to HKTDC.

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

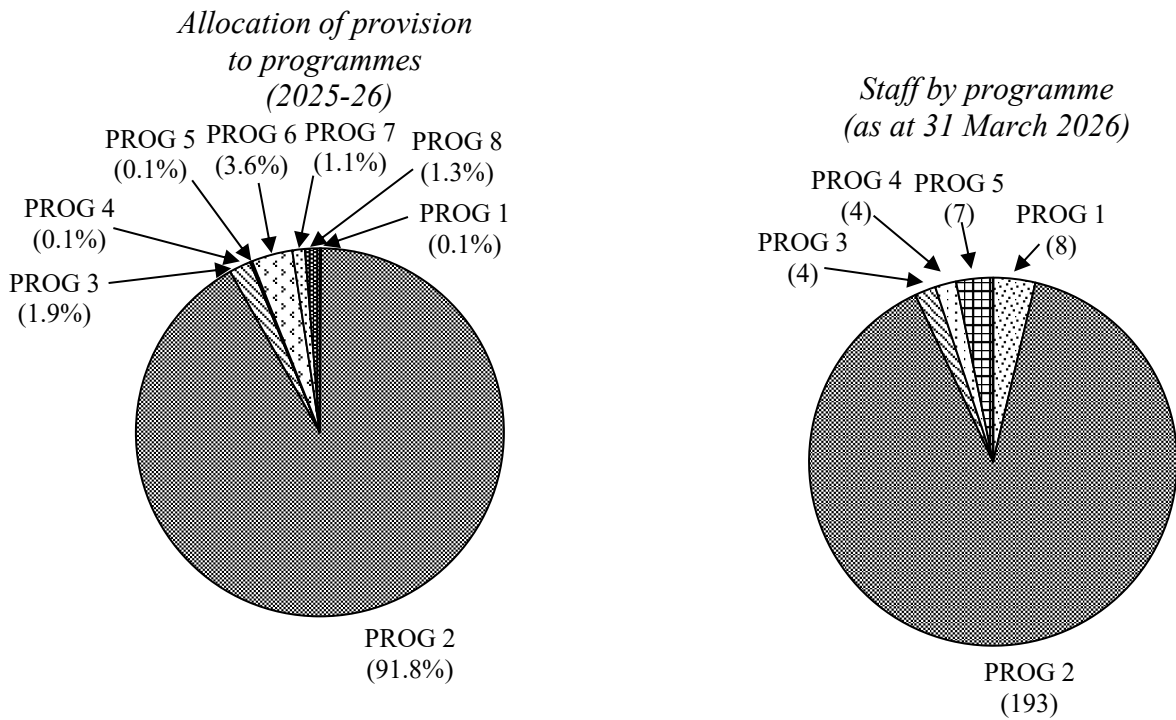
Programme (7)

Provision for 2025–26 is \$8.5 million (5.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for the Council’s enhanced consumer protection efforts targeting the elderly and implementation of IT projects.

Programme (8)

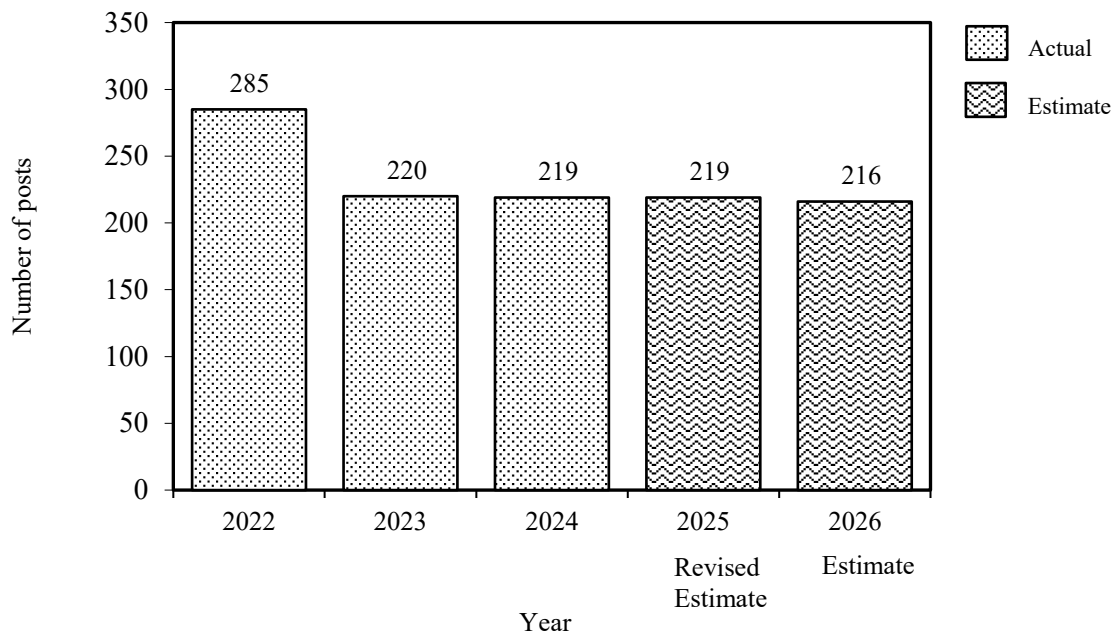
Provision for 2025–26 is \$9.4 million (4.8%) lower than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to a slight decrease in provision required for the Commission’s litigation work in 2025–26 based on the latest investigation and litigation progress.

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU



(No government staff under PROG 6, 7 & 8)

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



**Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT BUREAU**

| 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 | 1,182,382 | 1,228,235 | 1,211,558 | 1,194,940 |
| | Total, Recurrent..... | 1,182,382 | 1,228,235 | 1,211,558 | 1,194,940 |
| Non-Recurrent | | | | | |
| 700 | General non-recurrent | 3,747,609 | 5,828,427 | 13,325,907 | 12,851,776 |
| | Total, Non-Recurrent..... | 3,747,609 | 5,828,427 | 13,325,907 | 12,851,776 |
| | Total, Operating Account | 4,929,991 | 7,056,662 | 14,537,465 | 14,046,716 |
| Capital Account | | | | | |
| Subventions | | | | | |
| 955 | Consumer Council | 6,603 | 6,061 | 6,061 | 2,539 |
| 970 | Consumer Council (block vote) | 8,095 | 6,363 | 6,363 | 16,539 |
| | Hong Kong Trade Development Council | 100,000 | — | — | — |
| | Total, Subventions | 114,698 | 12,424 | 12,424 | 19,078 |
| | Total, Capital Account..... | 114,698 | 12,424 | 12,424 | 19,078 |
| | Total Expenditure | 5,044,689 | 7,069,086 | 14,549,889 | 14,065,794 |

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2025–26 for the salaries and expenses of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau is \$14,065,794,000. This represents a decrease of \$484,095,000 against the revised estimate for 2024–25 and an increase of \$9,021,105,000 over the actual expenditure in 2023–24.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$1,194,940,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2025 will be 219 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of three posts 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 \$160,540,000.

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 | 183,990 | 207,356 | 198,046 | 207,297 |
| - Allowances | 6,497 | 5,668 | 8,116 | 8,348 |
| - Job-related allowances..... | 14 | 4 | 1 | 4 |
| Personnel Related Expenses | | | | |
| - Mandatory Provident Fund contribution | 352 | 184 | 340 | 250 |
| - Civil Service Provident Fund contribution | 13,071 | 18,336 | 15,398 | 19,315 |
| - Disturbance allowance..... | — | — | 118 | — |
| Departmental Expenses | | | | |
| - General departmental expenses | 124,898 | 127,993 | 121,104 | 130,928 |
| Other Charges | | | | |
| - Subscription to the World Trade Organization | 46,432 | 54,074 | 48,617 | 52,286 |
| Subventions | | | | |
| - Consumer Council | 139,975 | 137,071 | 139,589 | 141,355 |
| - Hong Kong Trade Development Council | 540,242 | 551,390 | 551,390 | 508,686 |
| - Competition Commission | 126,911 | 126,159 | 128,839 | 126,471 |
| | 1,182,382 | 1,228,235 | 1,211,558 | 1,194,940 |

Capital Account

Subventions

5 Provision of \$2,539,000 under *Subhead 955 Consumer Council* is for the revamp of the Complaint Case Management System of the Council.

6 Provision of \$16,539,000 under *Subhead 970 Consumer Council (block vote)* is for the procurement of plant, vehicles and equipment each costing above \$200,000 but not exceeding \$10 million. The increase of \$10,176,000 (159.9%) over the revised estimate for 2024–25 is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for the Council's enhanced consumer protection efforts targeting the elderly and implementation of IT projects.

Head 152 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

Commitments

| Sub-head (Code) | Item (Code) | Ambit | Approved commitment \$'000 | Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2024 \$'000 | Revised estimated expenditure for 2024–25 \$'000 | Balance \$'000 |
|---------------------------------|---|-------|----------------------------------|--|--|--------------------|
| <i>Operating Account</i> | | | | | | |
| 700 | <i>General non-recurrent</i> | | | | | |
| 801 | Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme | | 200,000 | 59,879 | 10,000 | 130,121 |
| 804 | Funding for Competition Commission's litigation work..... | | 238,346 | 88,140 | 68,200 | 82,006 |
| 814 | Subsidy Scheme to Extend Fibre-based Networks to Villages in Remote Areas | | 774,400 | 398,230 | 114,707 | 261,463 |
| 815 | Incentive Scheme for Recurrent Exhibitions# | | 1,900,000# | 329,245 | 623,000 | 947,755 |
| 817 | Subsidy Scheme to Extend 5G Coverage in Rural and Remote Areas§..... | | 154,000§ | — | — | 154,000 |
| 833 | SME Financing Guarantee Scheme – Guarantee Products | | 290,000,000 | 13,440,100 | 12,500,000 | 264,059,900 |
| | | | <u>293,266,746</u> | <u>14,315,594</u> | <u>13,315,907</u> | <u>265,635,245</u> |
| <i>Capital Account</i> | | | | | | |
| 955 | <i>Consumer Council</i> | | | | | |
| 813 | Revamp of the Complaint Case Management System of the Consumer Council | | 24,335 | 14,043 | 6,061 | 4,231 |
| | | | <u>24,335</u> | <u>14,043</u> | <u>6,061</u> | <u>4,231</u> |
| | Total | | <u>293,291,081</u> | <u>14,329,637</u> | <u>13,321,968</u> | <u>265,639,476</u> |

The approved commitment for the item was \$1,400 million. An increase in commitment of \$500 million is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2025.

§ This is a new item, funding for which is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2025.