

## Head 163 — REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE

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

**Estimate 2025–26** ..... **\$1,825.3m**

**Establishment ceiling 2025–26** (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 316 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2025 reducing by four posts to 312 posts as at 31 March 2026..... **\$209.7m**

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

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### Controlling Officer's Report

#### Programme

##### Electoral Services

This programme contributes to Policy Area 28: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs).

#### Detail

	2023–24 (Actual)	2024–25 (Original)	2024–25 (Revised)	<b>2025–26 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	1,228.3	800.7	666.0 (–16.8%)	<b>1,825.3</b> (+174.1%)
				(or +128.0% on 2024–25 Original)

#### Aim

**2** The aim is to provide the Electoral Affairs Commission with administrative support for the effective discharge of its statutory functions under the Electoral Affairs Commission Ordinance (Cap. 541) to ensure that elections are conducted in an open, honest and fair manner.

#### Brief Description

**3** The Registration and Electoral Office (REO), under the direction of the Electoral Affairs Commission, implements the decisions of the Commission in relation to:

- the review and delineation of Legislative Council geographical constituencies and District Council geographical constituencies;
- the registration of electors, voters and ex-officio members of the Election Committee; and
- the conduct and supervision of elections.

**4** During 2024–25, the REO provided the Electoral Affairs Commission with administrative support to accomplish a number of major tasks, including:

- the conduct of a voter registration exercise;
- the publication of registers of electors/voters for geographical constituencies, functional constituencies and Election Committee subsectors;
- the conduct of checks on electors in the current registers in respect of their registered addresses/registration eligibilities;
- the review of subsidiary legislation on voter registration and electoral arrangements;
- the updating of the register of members of the Election Committee;
- the issue of the supplementary information to guidelines for the conduct of the 2024 Rural By-election;
- the supervision of the 2024 Rural By-election;
- the submission of report to the Chief Executive on the conduct of the 2024 Rural By-election; and
- the annual registration of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers.

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5 The key performance measures are:

### *Targets*

	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Plan)
to conduct annual exercise for			
voter registration .....	1	1	1
updating records of the registered electors .....	1	1	1
to organise			
District Council Ordinary Election .....	1	—	—
District Council by-election .....	—	—	— <sup>‡</sup>
Legislative Council General Election .....	—	—	1
Legislative Council by-election .....	—	—	— <sup>‡</sup>
Election Committee Subsector By-elections.....	—	—	1
to issue notification of election arrangements to electors			
ten days before the poll (%) <sup>^</sup> .....	100	—	100
to respond to telephone enquiries on election arrangements			
on polling days within two minutes (%).....	100	—	100
to complete initial processing of an elector registration or			
updating of an elector record within 14 days (%) .....	100	100	100
to complete initial processing actions on election-related			
complaints within five working days (%).....	100	100	100
to submit recommendations to the Chief Executive on the			
delineation of geographical constituencies for the 2025			
Legislative Council General Election .....	—	—	in Q2
to submit to the Chief Executive a report on matters			
relating to			
the 2022 Legislative Council Election Committee			
Constituency By-election .....	17 Mar	—	—
the 2023 Rural Ordinary Election .....	14 Apr	—	—
the 2023 District Council Ordinary Election .....	—	8 Mar	—
the 2024 Rural By-election .....	—	—	on or before 28 Feb

<sup>‡</sup> By-elections will be conducted as and when necessary and practicable.

<sup>^</sup> Five days for the Election Committee Subsector By-elections.

### *Indicators*

	2023 (Actual)	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Estimate)
no. of new electors registered#.....	32 273	21 039	30 000
no. of elector records updated# .....	671 892	153 121	150 000

# Figure appeared or expected to appear in the Final Registers of the relevant year.

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2025–26*

6 During 2025–26, the REO will continue providing the Electoral Affairs Commission with administrative support in connection with its work, which includes:

- the conduct of a voter registration exercise;
- the conduct of checks on electors in the current registers in respect of their registered particulars;
- the compilation and publication of provisional/final register of members of the Election Committee;
- the review and delineation of geographical constituencies for the 2025 Legislative Council General Election and District Council geographical constituencies for the 2027 District Council Ordinary Election;
- the updating and issue of guidelines or related supplementary information for the conduct of the 2025 Election Committee Subsector By-elections and the 2025 Legislative Council General Election;
- the conduct and supervision of the 2025 Election Committee Subsector By-elections and the 2025 Legislative Council General Election;
- the conduct and supervision of other by-elections, if any;
- the submission of election reports to the Chief Executive in accordance with electoral law; and
- the annual registration of specified particulars relating to candidates on ballot papers.

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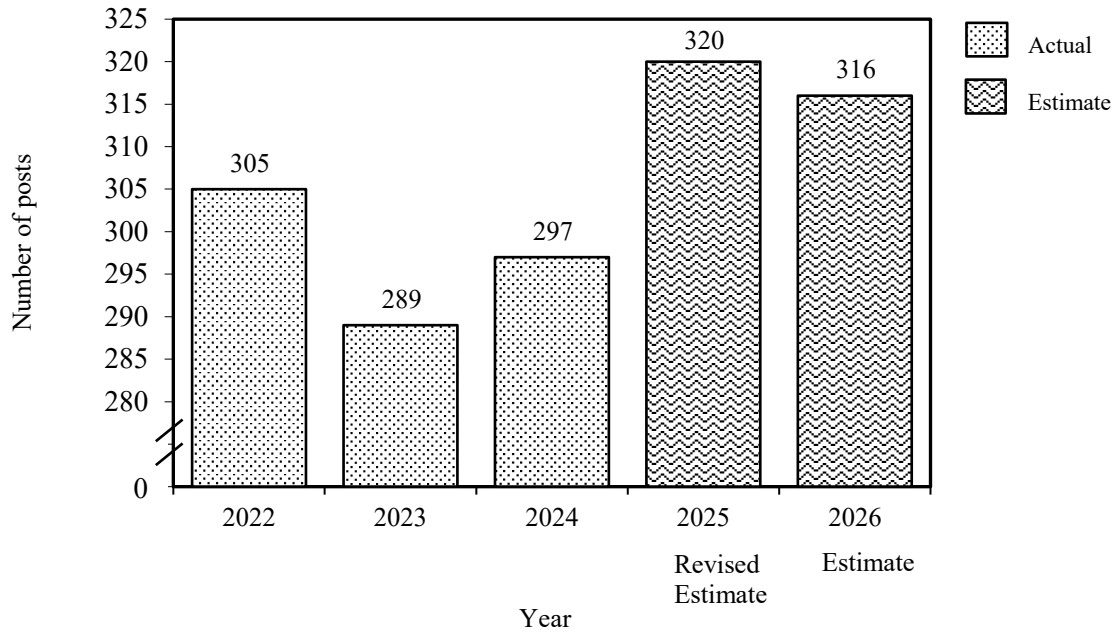
### ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

	2023–24 (Actual) (\$m)	2024–25 (Original) (\$m)	2024–25 (Revised) (\$m)	2025–26 (Estimate) (\$m)
<b>Programme</b>				
Electoral Services .....	1,228.3	800.7	666.0 (–16.8%)	<b>1,825.3</b> <b>(+174.1%)</b>
				<b>(or +128.0% on 2024–25 Original)</b>

#### Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2025–26 is \$1,159.3 million (174.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 2024–25. This is mainly due to the increased requirements for the conduct of the 2025 Election Committee Subsector By-elections and the 2025 Legislative Council General Election. There will also be a net decrease of four posts in 2025–26.

*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	<b>Estimate 2025–26</b>	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	<b>\$'000</b>	
<b>Operating Account</b>					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses .....	1,228,288	800,741	665,997	<b>1,825,342</b>
	Total, Recurrent.....	1,228,288	800,741	665,997	<b>1,825,342</b>
	Total, Operating Account .....	1,228,288	800,741	665,997	<b>1,825,342</b>
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	Total Expenditure .....	1,228,288	800,741	665,997	<b>1,825,342</b>
		<u>1,228,288</u>	<u>800,741</u>	<u>665,997</u>	<u><b>1,825,342</b></u>

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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 Registration and Electoral Office (REO) is \$1,825,342,000. This represents an increase of \$1,159,345,000 over the revised estimate for 2024–25 and \$597,054,000 over the actual expenditure in 2023–24.

#### *Operating Account*

#### Recurrent

**2** Provision of \$1,825,342,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the REO. The increase of \$1,159,345,000 (174.1%) over the revised estimate for 2024–25 is mainly due to the increased requirements for the conduct of the 2025 Election Committee Subsector By-elections and the 2025 Legislative Council General Election.

**3** The establishment as at 31 March 2025 will be 320 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of four 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 \$209,703,000.

**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)	<b>2025–26 (Estimate) (\$'000)</b>
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries .....	168,741	187,855	177,581	<b>194,956</b>
- Allowances .....	3,999	3,632	6,800	<b>6,655</b>
- Job-related allowances.....	1	—	—	—
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution .....	402	338	482	<b>525</b>
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution .....	15,630	19,376	17,278	<b>20,721</b>
Departmental Expenses				
- Honoraria for members of committees.....	367	480	480	<b>480</b>
- General departmental expenses .....	60,132	61,341	57,652	<b>70,654</b>
Other Charges				
- Election expenses .....	979,016	527,719	405,724	<b>1,531,351</b>
	1,228,288	800,741	665,997	<b>1,825,342</b>