

Head 08: Elections and Boundaries Commission

A summary of the Elections and Boundaries Commission's Expenditure,
Divisions and Projects
Financial Scrutiny Unit, Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

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About this Guide

This guide provides a summary of expenditure for the Elections and Boundaries Commission for the period 2012-2018. It provides the Members of Parliament and stakeholders with an overview of the Commission's responsibilities. The primary purpose of this guide is to consolidate the information contained within the various Budget Documents pertaining to the Elections and Boundaries Commission and provide readers with an analysis of same. This guide is based primarily on the Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure, the Estimates of Development Programme, the Public Sector Investment Programme and the Auditor General's Report on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the fiscal year 2016.

Head 08: Elections and Boundaries Commission

Department's Overview¹

Mission

To register individuals, conduct elections and review constituency boundaries with integrity, courtesy and transparency in accordance with the law.

Vision

To be a world class Electoral Management Body.

The EBC is responsible for the:

- registration of voters and the conduct of elections in every constituency; and
- procedure for review of constituency boundaries.²

The Elections and Boundaries Commission is the successor institution of two separate bodies:

- a Boundaries Commission and
- an Elections Commission, these having been amalgamated in the Republican Constitution³ enacted in 1976.

The members of the Commission comprises a Chairman and not less than two or more than four Commissioners who are appointed by the President of the Republic after consultation with the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. These appointments are for

¹ Elections and Boundaries Commission website, accessed on September 01, 2017 <http://www.ebctt.com/about-us/mission-and-vision/>

² Elections and Boundaries Commission website, accessed on September 01, 2017 <http://www.ebctt.com/about-us/role-and-function/>

³ Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago http://rgd.legalaffairs.gov.tt/laws2/alphabetical_list/lawspdfs/1.01.pdf

five years in the first instance but under the Constitution, the appointees are eligible for reappointment. According to the Constitution, the Commission in the exercise of its functions as an independent body shall not be subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority. Likewise it also has within its remit constitutional responsibility for reviewing the number and boundaries of the electoral districts into which Trinidad and Tobago is divided for the purpose of elections and for the submission of these reports to the relevant authorities.⁴

Chairman: Mr. Mark Ramkerrysingh

Chief Election Officer (Accounting Officer): Ms Lena Sahadeo

⁴ Elections and Boundaries Commission website, accessed on September 01, 2017 <http://www.ebctt.com/about-us/structure-of-the-commission/>

Where the Department spends its money

2017-2018 Estimates of Expenditure

The budget allocation of **\$82,500,000** for the Elections and Boundaries Commission is comprised of:

- The Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure in the sum of **\$82,000,000**;
- The Draft Estimates of Development Programme - Infrastructure Development Fund⁵ in the sum of **\$500,000**.

The Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure include:

- 01 Personnel Expenditure; - **\$34,503,200**;
- 02 Goods and Services; - **\$44,696,800**;
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases; **\$2,800,000**;

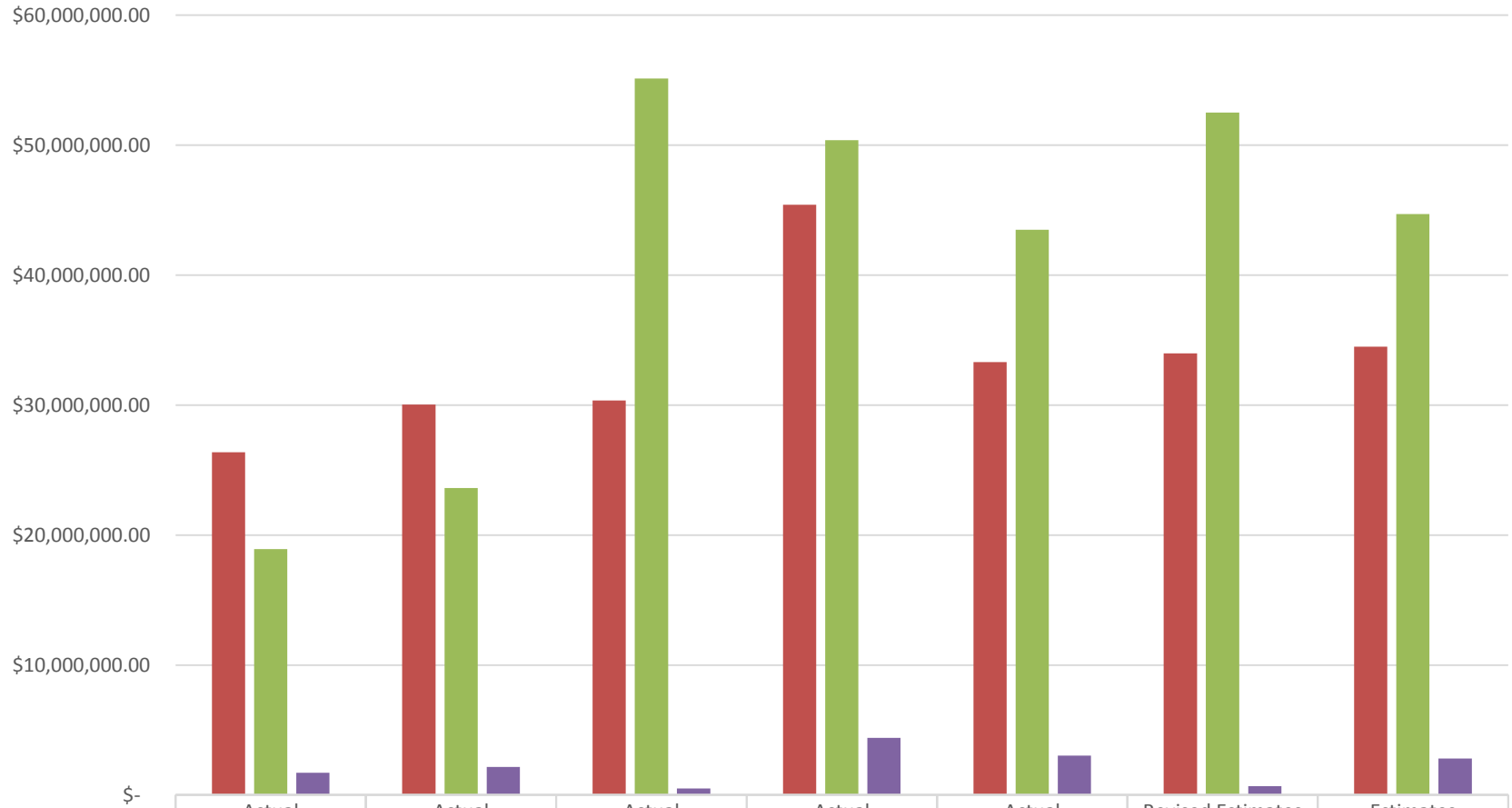
The Elections and Boundaries Commission's:

- Recurrent Expenditure as a percentage of the total Recurrent Expenditure budget is **0.16%**; and
- Infrastructure Development Fund as a percentage of the total Infrastructure Development Fund is **0.019%**.

⁵ Head 18 -Ministry of Finance, Sub-Head 04 - Current Transfers and Subsidies, Sub-Item 11- Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF) (Infrastructure Development Fund allocation is part of the Ministry of Finance allocation for the financial year. *Therefore, the total recurrent expenditure for the Elections and Boundaries Commission does not include IDF funding.*

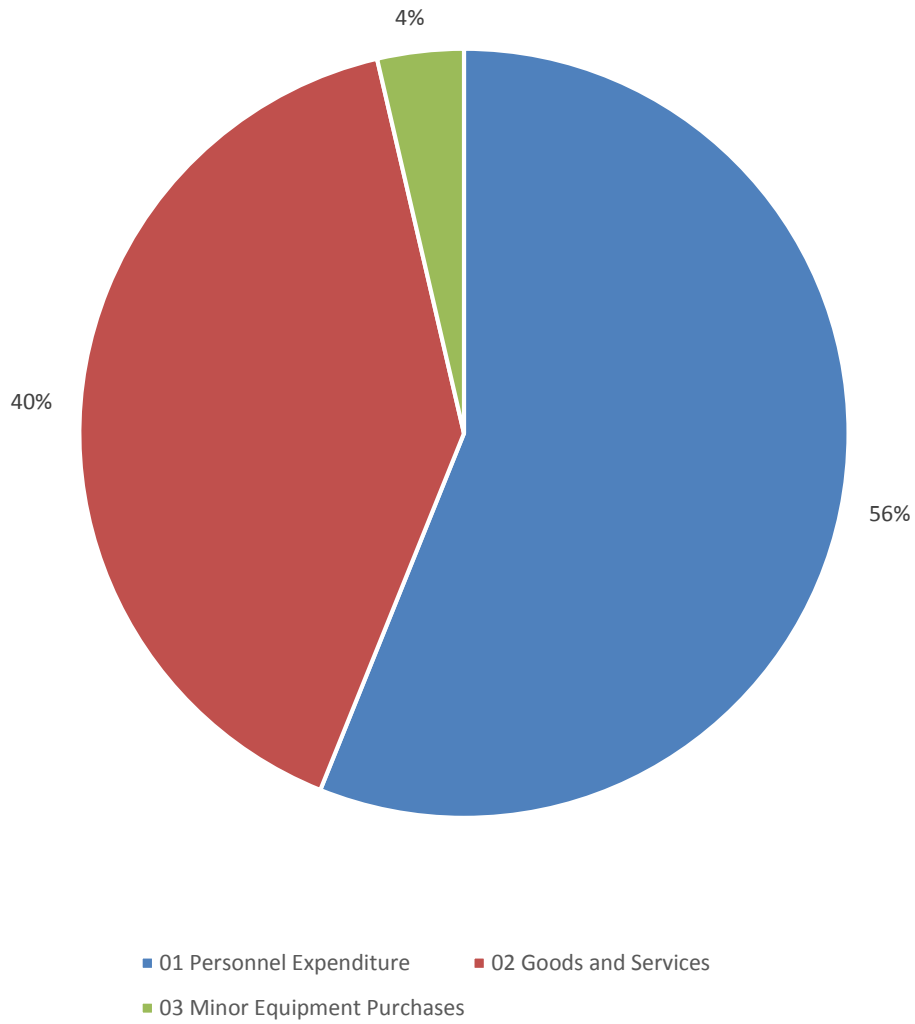
Summary of Recurrent Expenditure for the period 2012-2018

Elections and Boundaries Commission's Recurrent Expenditure for the period 2012-2018

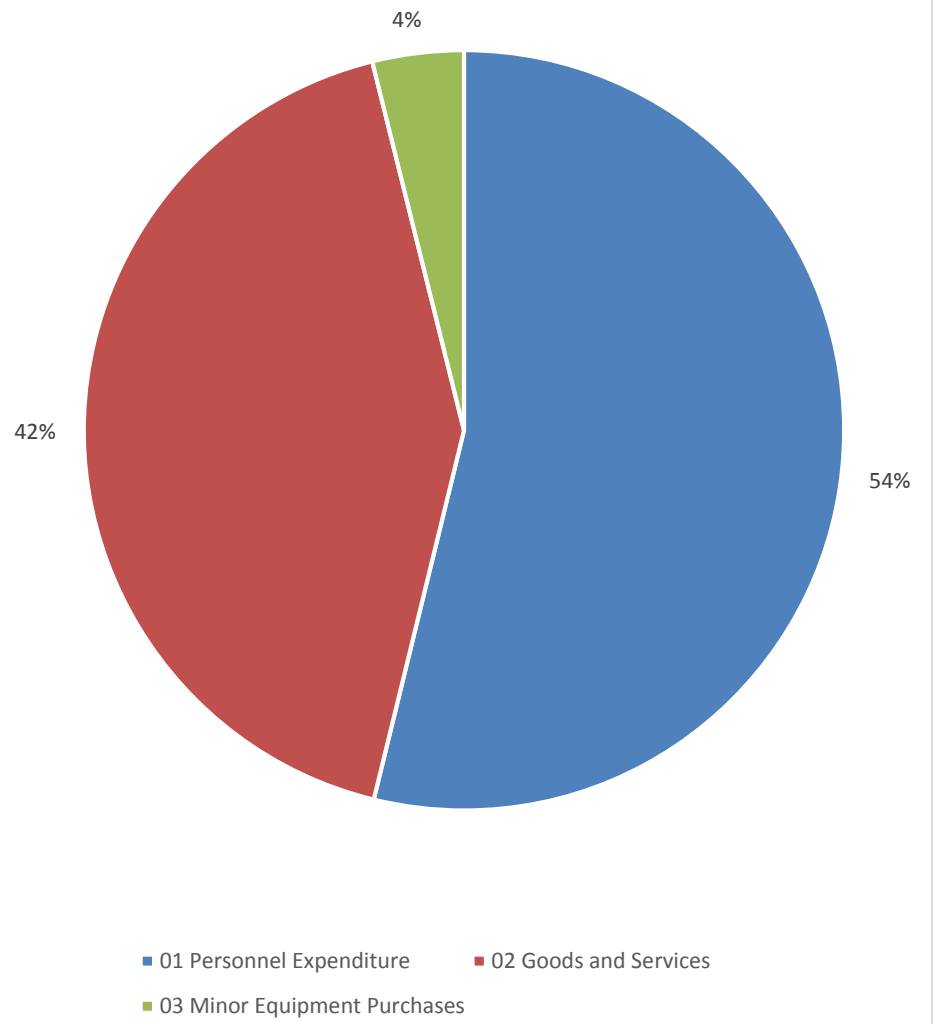


01 Personnel Expenditure	\$26,366,735.00	\$30,036,058.00	\$30,347,045.00	\$45,409,417.00	\$33,311,907.00	\$33,984,000.00	\$34,503,200.00
02 Goods and Services	\$18,929,066.00	\$23,609,450.00	\$55,132,348.00	\$50,392,699.00	\$43,499,145.00	\$52,506,200.00	\$44,696,800.00
03 Minor Equipment Purchases	\$1,706,814.00	\$2,166,196.00	\$509,047.00	\$4,402,834.00	\$3,037,596.00	\$688,600.00	\$2,800,000.00

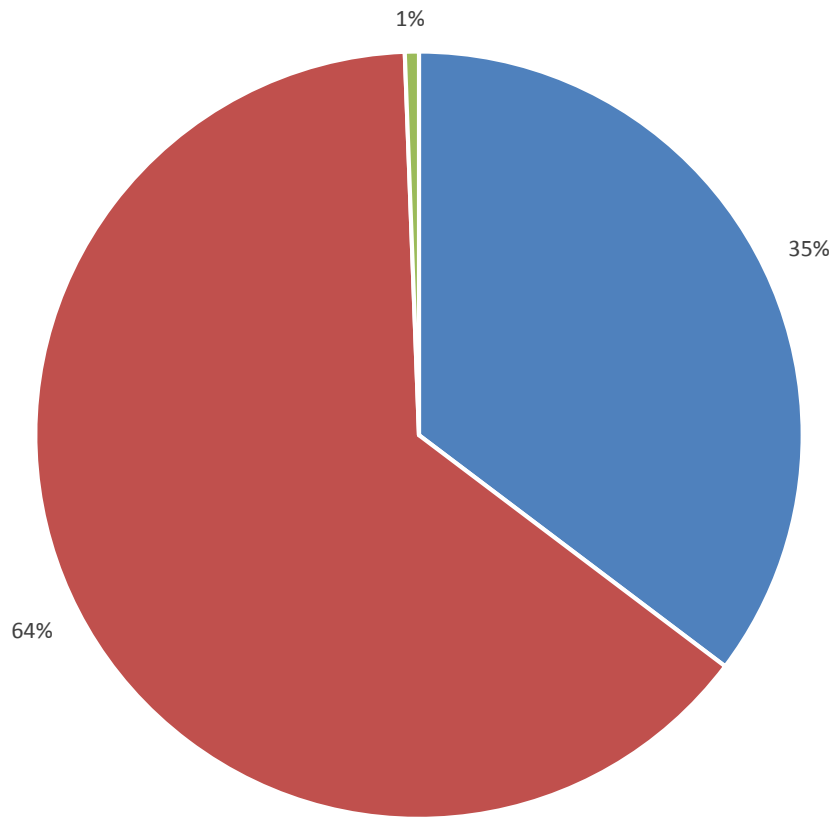
2012 Actual



2013 Actual

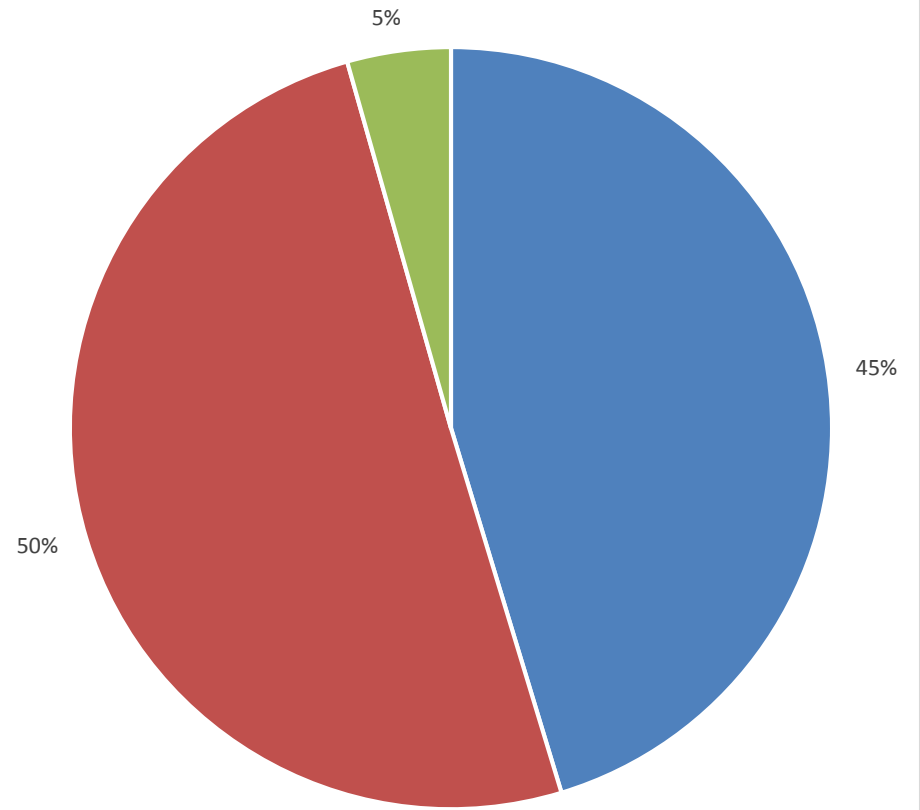


2014 Actual



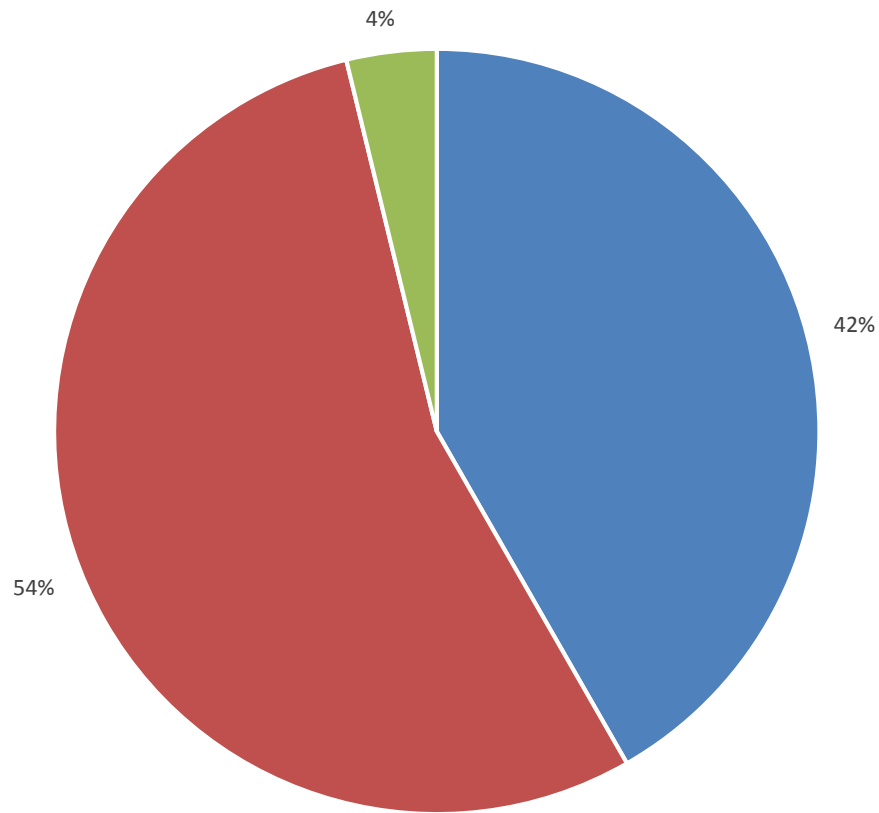
■ 01 Personnel Expenditure ■ 02 Goods and Services
■ 03 Minor Equipment Purchases

2015 Actual



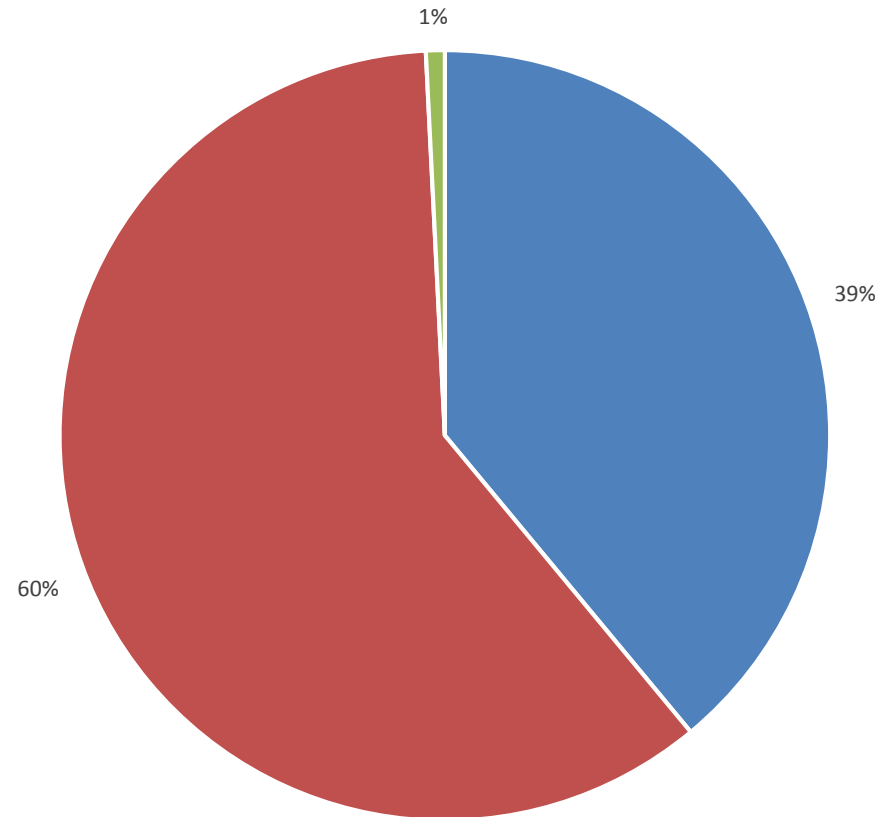
■ 01 Personnel Expenditure ■ 02 Goods and Services
■ 03 Minor Equipment Purchases

2016 Actual



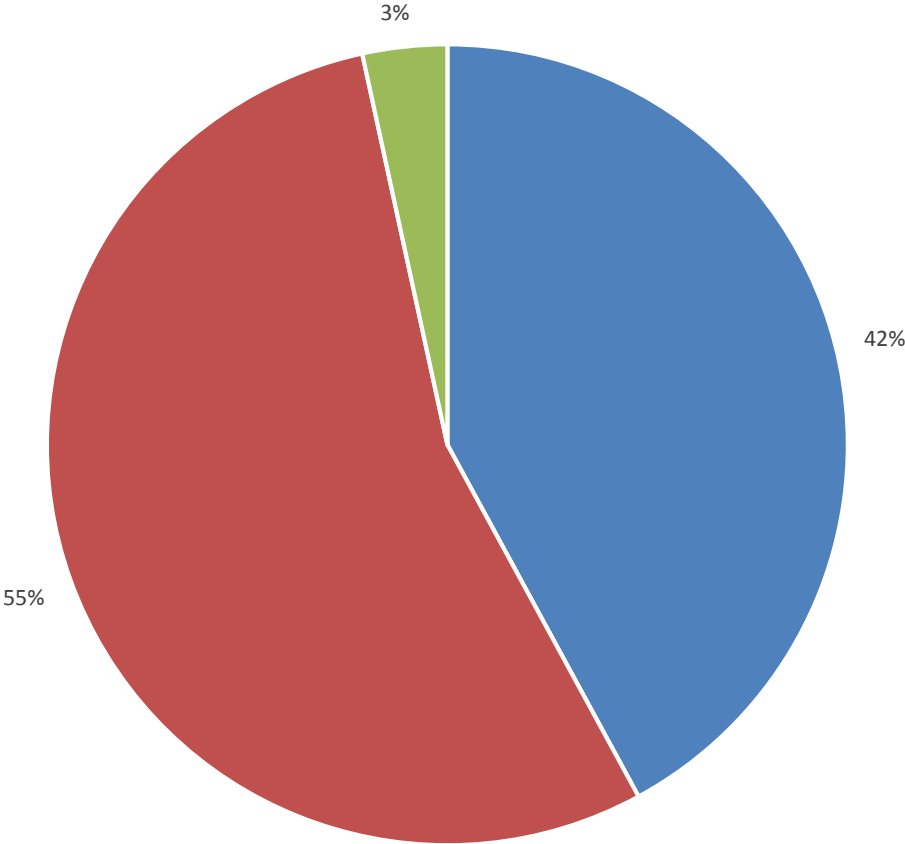
■ 01 Personnel Expenditure ■ 02 Goods and Services
■ 03 Minor Equipment Purchases

2017 Revised Estimates



■ 01 Personnel Expenditure ■ 02 Goods and Services
■ 03 Minor Equipment Purchases

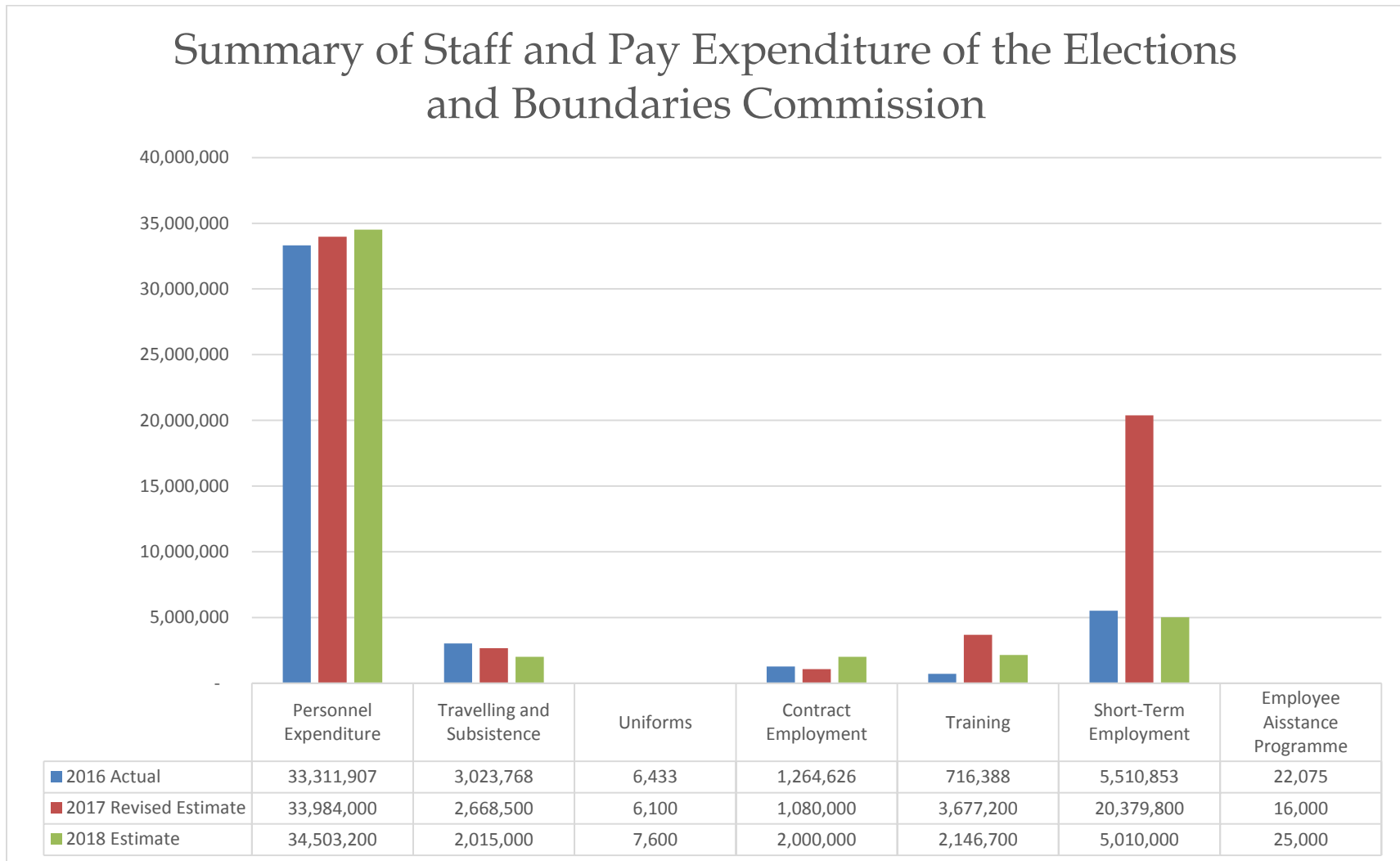
2018 Estimates



■ 01 Personnel Expenditure ■ 02 Goods and Services ■ 03 Minor Equipment Purchases

Staff and Pay⁶

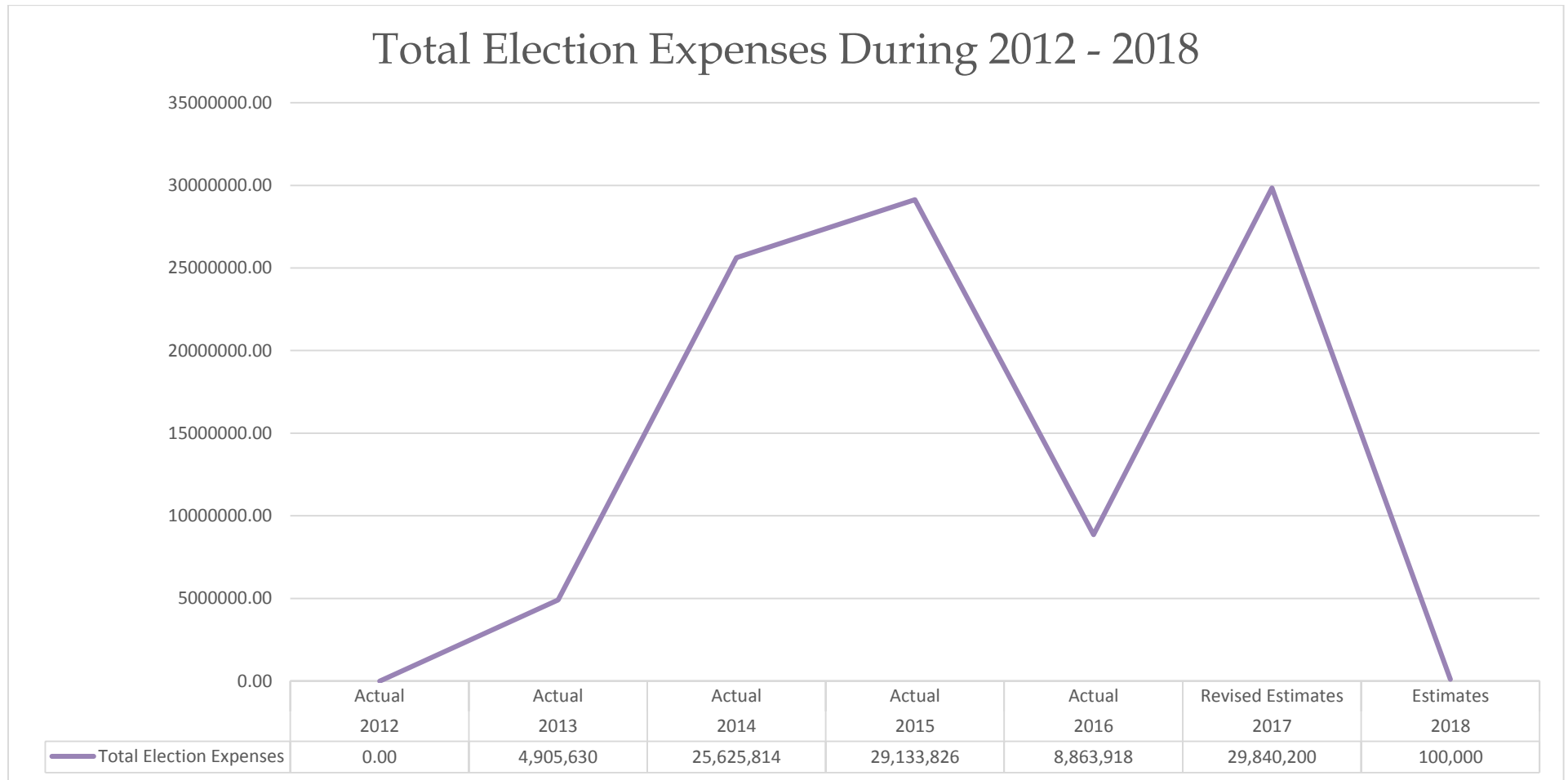
The allocation of staff expenditure for the year 2018 was \$ 45,707,500, which represents a decrease of approximately 26% from the last fiscal year 2017. The diagram below provides a breakdown of all expenditure related to staff from 2016-2018



⁶ Draft Estimates for Details of Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure for the Financial Year 2018 <http://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-Recurrent-Expenditure-2018.pdf>

Expenditure Unique to the Elections and Boundaries Commission

Unique Expenditure refers to expenditure items incurred by the Elections and Boundaries Commission that may not feature in other ministries or departments. The following graph illustrates the Summary of Election Expenses for the Period 2012 – 2018



The Department's total allocation as a percentage of the National Budget for the period 2012 to 2018

Year ⁷	Total Allocation ⁸	National Budget ⁹	Percentage of National Budget
2012	\$51,040,297.00	\$55,718,271,573.00	0.09%
2013	\$60,719,300.00	\$59,174,226,196.00	0.10%
2014	\$85,988,440.00	\$65,020,886,424.00	0.13%
2015	\$107,209,010.00	\$61,966,922,675.00	0.17%
2016	\$86,371,897.00	\$56,573,913,053.00	0.15%
2017	\$90,178,800.00	\$55,598,436,912.00	0.16%
2018	\$82,000,000.00	\$54,955,041,591.00	0.15%

- Total allocation for the Ministry as a percentage of the National Budget illustrated a decrease in the allocation to the Elections and Boundaries Commission by **0.01%** between the period 2016/2017 and 2017/2018.

⁷ For the Fiscal Years 2012-2016, actual figures were used to calculate the total allocation. However, estimates were used to calculate the total allocation for the Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018.

⁸ Total Allocation for the Elections and Boundaries Commission = Recurrent Expenditure + Development Programme Consolidated Fund

⁹ The National Budget = Total Recurrent Expenditure + Total Development Programme Consolidated Fund

Analysis of Summary of Expenditure

Recurrent Expenditure refers to the payments for expenses which are incurred during the day-to-day operations of the Elections and Boundaries Commission for personnel expenditure, goods and services, minor equipment purchases and current transfers and subsidies.

- Recurrent Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2017/2017 is **\$82,000,000**. This represents **0.15%** of the total Recurrent Expenditure for the financial year 2017/2018.
- Recurrent Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2016/2017 was **\$87,178,800 (revised)**. Comparing this figure with Fiscal Year 2017/2018, there is an increase of **\$5,178,800** or **5.94%**.
- The largest portion of the Elections and Boundaries Commission allocation has generally gone to Sub-Head 02 - Goods and Services which has been fluctuating over the period 2012 to 2018 from a low of **\$18,929,066.00** in fiscal year 2012 to a high of **\$55,132,348.00** in fiscal year 2014. In fiscal year 2018, there is a decrease of approximately **15%** in spending for “Goods and Services” from 2017.
- In 2018 the “Personnel Expenditure” percentage is **42%** of the Ministry’s total recurrent allocation. Further analysis shows that the largest sub-item of Personnel Expenditure is allocated to “Salaries and Cost of Living Allowance”.
- The smallest portion of the allocation has consistently been allocated to “Minor Equipment Purchases” over the period 2012 to 2018.

Summary of Development Programme Expenditure for the period 2012-2018

Development Programme is capital expenditure aimed at improving and enhancing development in different areas of Trinidad and Tobago which includes; human resources, economic and social development.

The Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP), which represents the capital expenditure component of the National Budget, is the instrument used by Government to effect its vision and policies. It is a budgeting and strategic planning tool made up of projects and programmes, designed to realise the goals set out in the Government's overarching policy.

The PSIP budget document provides a detailed description of the programmes and projects and includes a review of the implementation of projects and programmes in the previous financial year and highlights the major projects and programmes to be implemented in the upcoming financial year.

- The Public Sector Investment Programme is intended to achieve:
 - ✓ the country's social and economic development goals; and
 - ✓ enhance the quality of life of all citizens.

The estimates for the development programme are presented in two parts as follows:

- Funds appropriated by Parliament and disbursed directly from the Consolidated Fund; and
- Funds disbursed from the Infrastructure Development Fund.

Summary of Development Programme Expenditure for the period 2012-2018



	Actual 2012	Actual 2013	Actual 2014	Actual 2015	Actual 2016	Revised Estimates 2017	Estimates 2018
— 005 Multi-Sectoral and Other Services - Consolidated Fund	4,037,682	4,907,596	-	7,004,060	6,523,249	3,000,000	-
— 005 Multi-Sectoral and Other Services - Infrastructure Development Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	500,000

Major Programmes and Developments

The following table illustrates the major programmes and projects under the Elections and Boundaries Commission and the actual or estimated expenditures for the last three years.

Head 8, Subhead 9 Development Programme 2017	Programme/Project	2017 Estimate	2017 Revised Estimate	2018 Estimate
005-06A-005	Upgrading of the Electronic Voter Registration and Election Management System	6,523,249	5,000,000	-
005-06F-002-IDF	Construction of the Arima and Piarco Registration Area Office	500,000	-	500,000

General Useful Information

- Electoral Commission of Jamaica, Jamaica: <http://www.eoj.com.jm/constituencies.htm>
- The Barbados Electoral and Boundaries Commission: <http://www.electoral.barbados.gov.bb/>
- Antigua and Bermuda Electoral Commission: <http://www.abec.gov.ag/>
- The Electoral Commission, UK: <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/>
- Election Commission of India, India: <http://eci.nic.in/eci/eci.html>