



2018-2019

Head 05: Parliament

A summary of the Parliament'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 Office of the Parliament for the period 2013-2019. It provides the Members of Parliament and stakeholders with an overview of the Office of the Parliament's responsibilities. The primary purpose of this guide is to consolidate the information contained within the various Budget Documents pertaining to the Office of the Parliament, 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 2017.

Head 05: Parliament

Department's Overview

Mission

“As the national Legislature of Trinidad and Tobago, its mission is to ensure that Parliament exercises its legislative, oversight, representation and outreach duties effectively and that Parliament remains the main forum for national political debate.”¹

Vision

“By 2018, to be a modern Parliament that fulfils its constitutional duties to its fullest extent, and effectively serves the people of Trinidad and Tobago.”²

President of Senate - The Honourable Christine Kangaloo

Speaker of the House - The Honourable Bridgid Annisette-George, MP

Clerk of the House (Accounting Officer) – Mrs. Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel

Clerk of the Senate (Ag.) - Mr. Brian Caesar

¹ Strategic Plan of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, Accessed on September 28, 2018: <http://www.ttparliament.org/documents/2218.pdf>

² *Ibid*

The Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago is the arm of State entrusted with the responsibility of making laws for good governance and providing oversight of the Government (Executive).³ Trinidad and Tobago follows the Westminster System of government, in that Members of the Executive are also Members of Parliament and thus attend sittings of the Legislature.⁴ The Parliament consists of the President, the Senate and the House of Representatives.⁵ It is charged with specific responsibilities and its Members and the institution as a whole are given special powers and privileges to effectively carry out its functions, including:

- freedom of speech in Parliament;
- the authority to regulate its business by Standing Orders; and
- the freedom from civil or criminal proceedings for words spoken or written by Members before their respective House and in Committee.⁶

The House of Representatives is made up of the elected representatives of the forty-one (41) constituencies and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, while the Senate consists of thirty-one (31) Senators all appointed by the President. Appointments are made as follows:

- sixteen (16) on the advice of the Prime Minister;
- six (6) on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition; and
- nine (9) (Independent) on the discretion of the President.

The primary objective of the Office of the Parliament is to provide reliable, consistent and professional support services to all Members of Parliament.

³ Power to make laws, section 53 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Accessed on September 28, 2018: <http://rgd.legalaffairs.gov.tt/Laws2/Constitution.pdf>

⁴ Office of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, accessed on September 28, 2018: <http://www.ttparliament.org/about.php?mid=5>

⁵ Establishment of the Parliament, section 39 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Accessed on September 28, 2018: <http://rgd.legalaffairs.gov.tt/Laws2/Constitution.pdf>

⁶ Office of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago website, Accessed on September 28, 2018, 2018: <http://www.ttparliament.org/about.php?mid=50>

Where the Office of the Parliament spends its money

2018-2019 Estimates of Expenditure

The budget allocation of **\$126,500,000.00⁷** for the Office of the Parliament is comprised of:

- The Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure in the sum of **\$119,000,000.00**; and
- The Draft Estimates of Development Programme - Consolidated Fund in the sum of **\$7,500,000.00**

The Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure include:

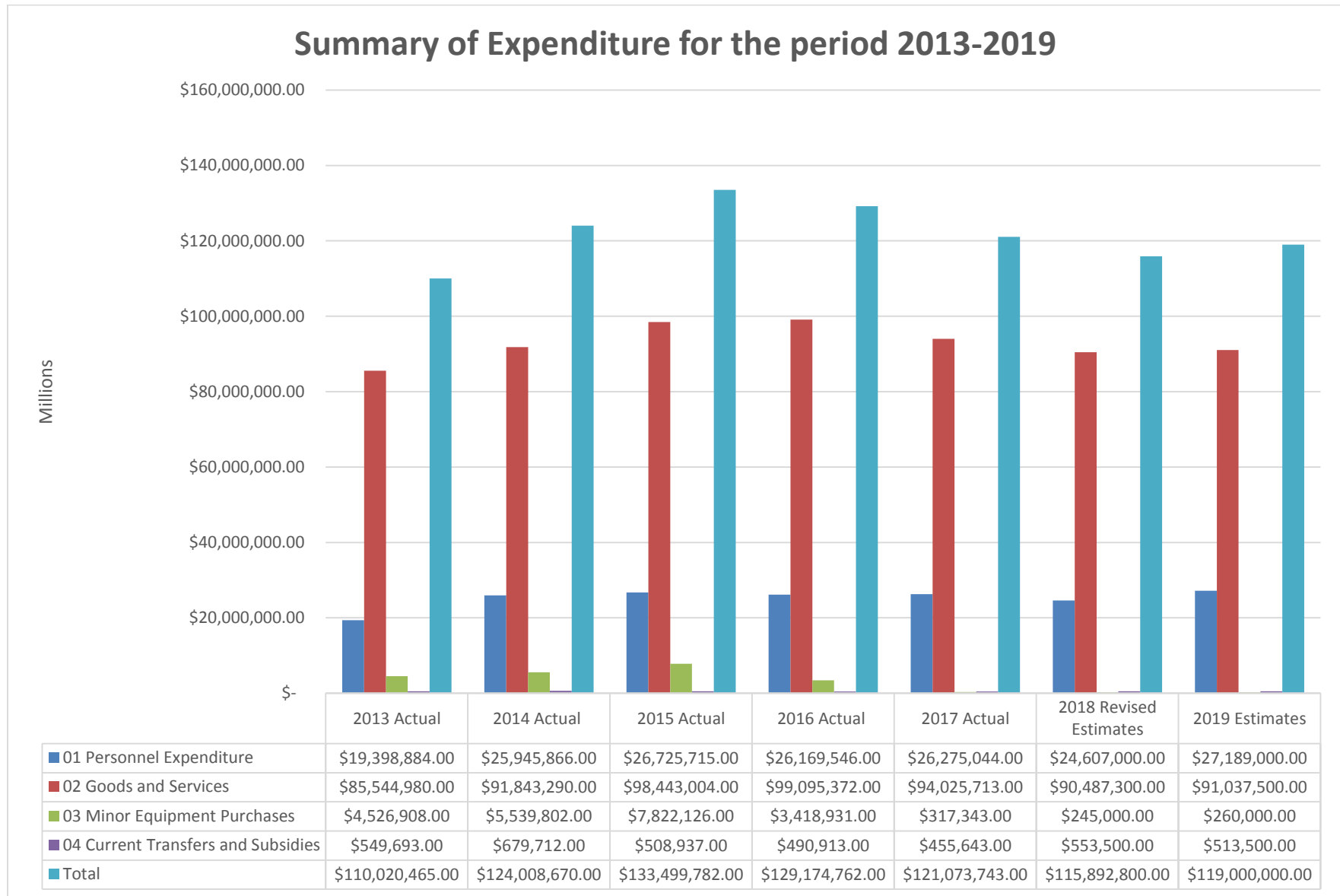
- 01 Personnel Expenditure - **\$27,189,000.00**;
- 02 Goods and Services - **\$91,037,500.00**;
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases **\$260,000.00**; and
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies **\$513,500.00**.

The Office of the Parliament's:

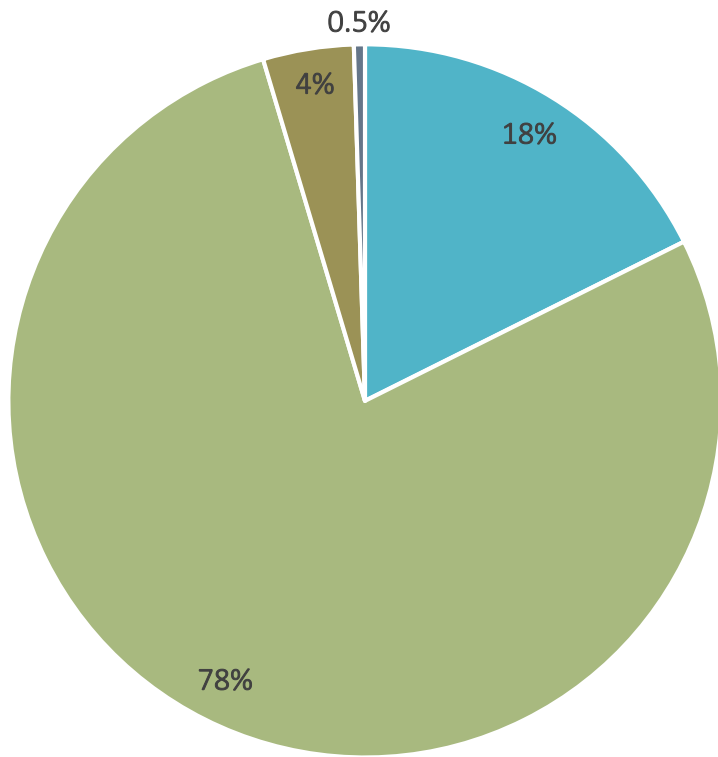
- Recurrent Expenditure as a percentage of the total Recurrent Expenditure budget is **0.22%**; and
- Consolidated Fund allocation as a percentage of the total Consolidated Fund allocation is **0.31%**.

⁷ Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2019 accessed on October 01, 2018. <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-Recurrent-Expenditure-2019.pdf>

Summary of Recurrent Expenditure for the period 2013-2019

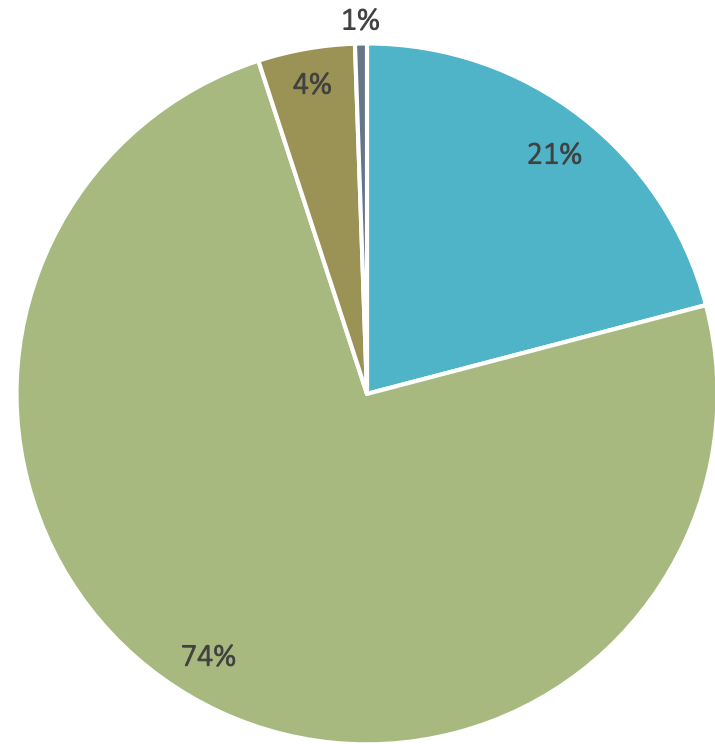


2013 Actual



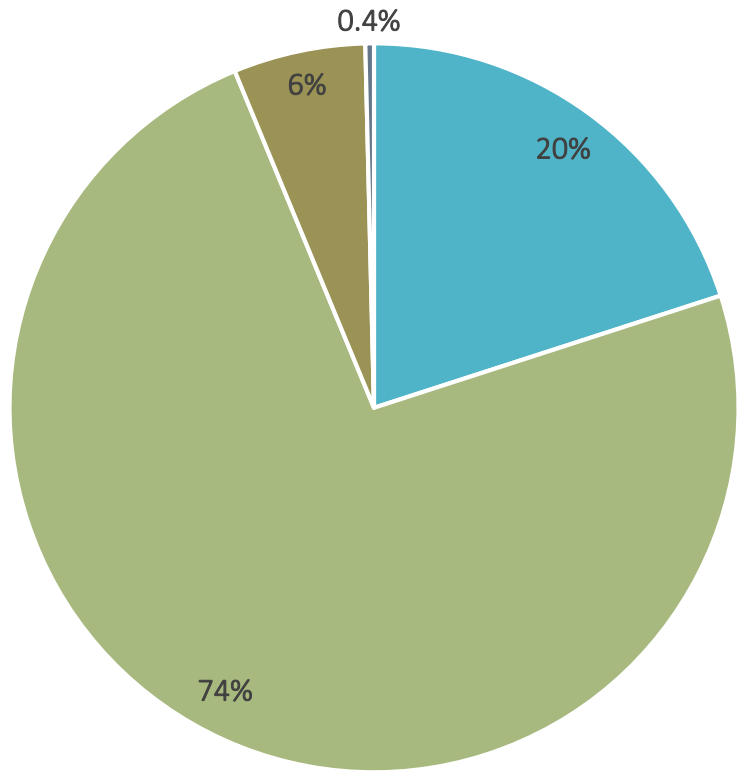
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies

2014 Actual



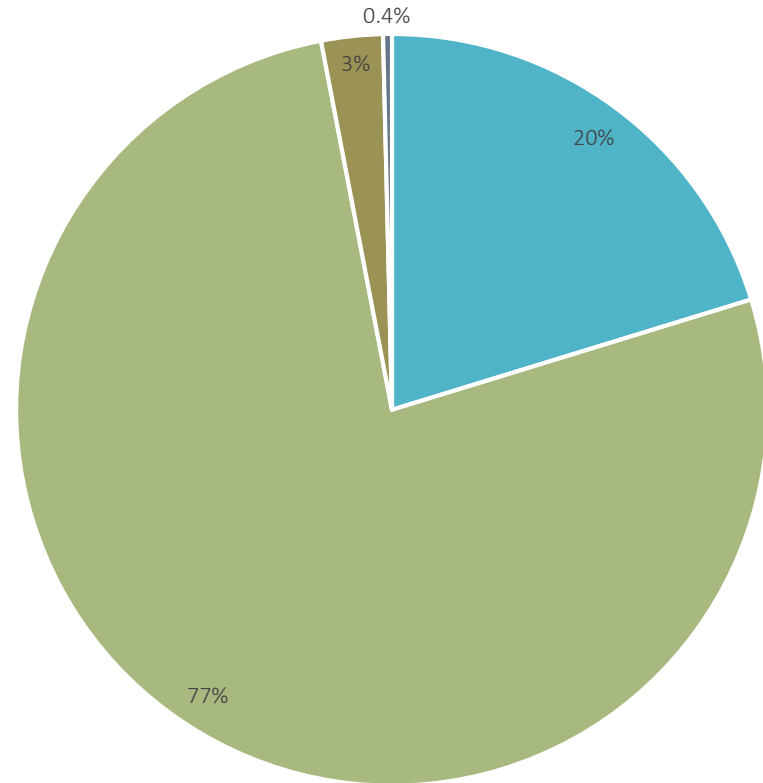
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies

2015 Actual



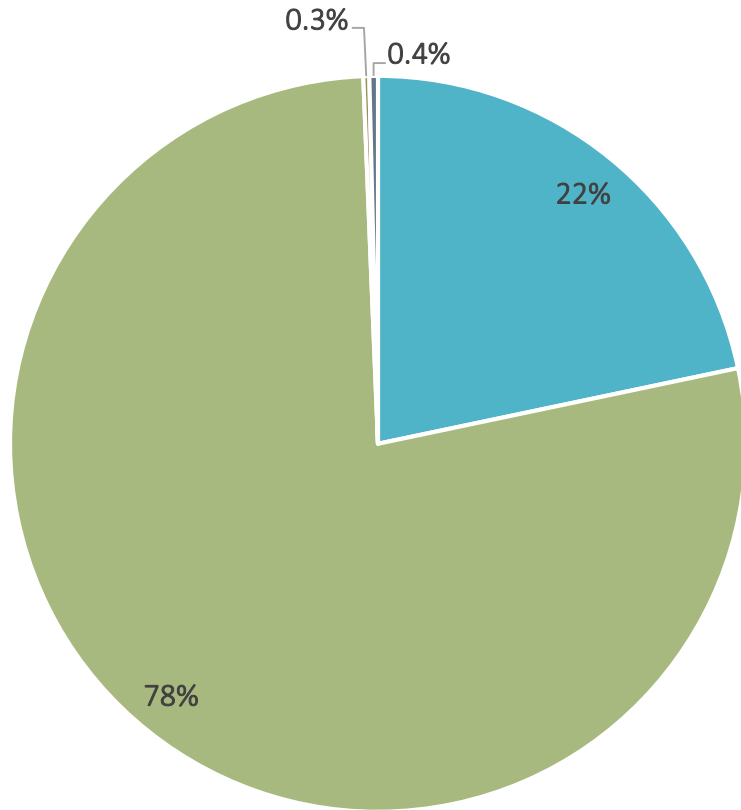
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies

2016 Actual



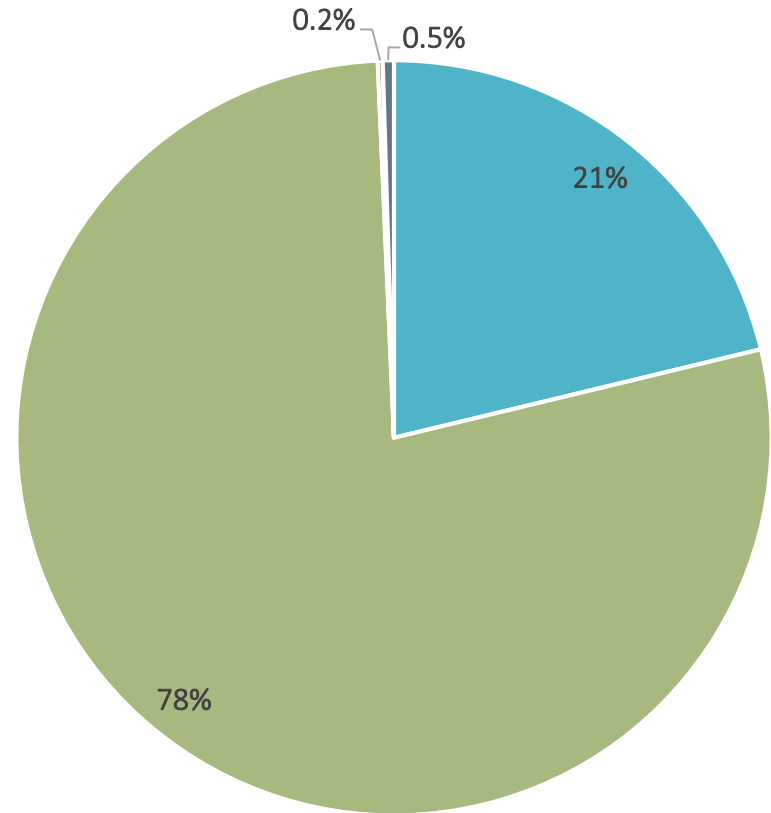
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies

2017 Actual



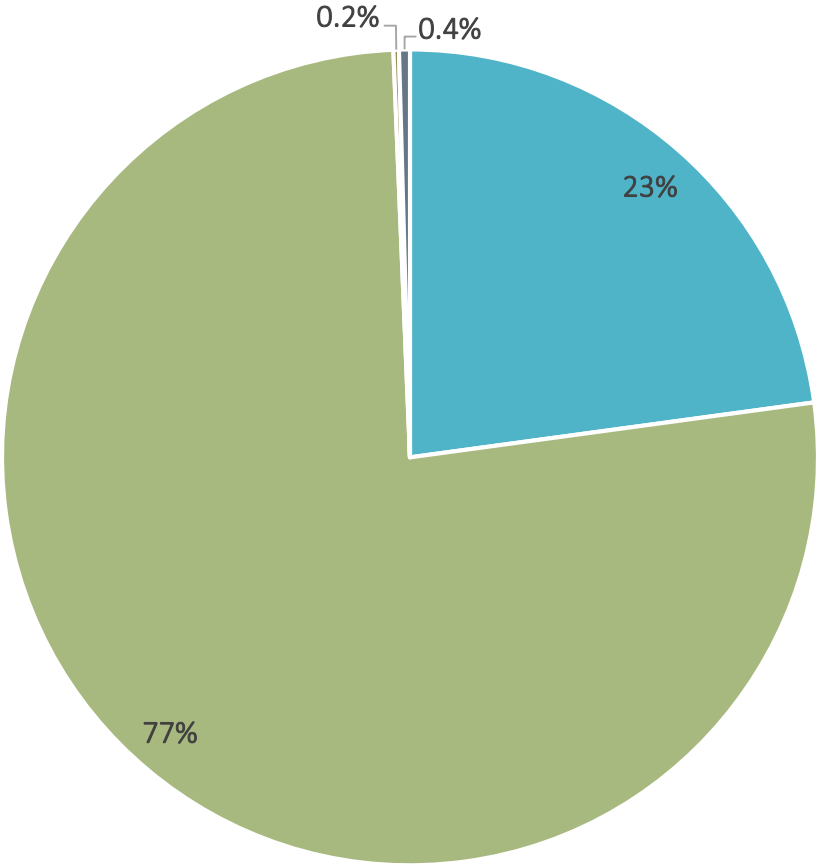
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies

2018 Revised Estimates



- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies

2019 Estimates



■ 01 Personnel Expenditure ■ 02 Goods and Services ■ 03 Minor Equipment Purchases ■ 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies

Staff and Pay⁸

The estimated allocation to staff expenditure for the fiscal year 2019 is **\$59,815,000.00** which represents a decrease of approximately **0.35%** from the last fiscal year 2018. The following chart provides a breakdown of all expenditure related to staff from 2017-2019.



⁸ Direct charges to the Consolidated Fund is not included in the Appropriation Bill. Direct charges are items of expenditure which are charged to the Consolidated Fund but not required to be included in the Appropriation Act. Therefore, total appropriation plus direct charges will constitute total budgeted expenditure for the year.

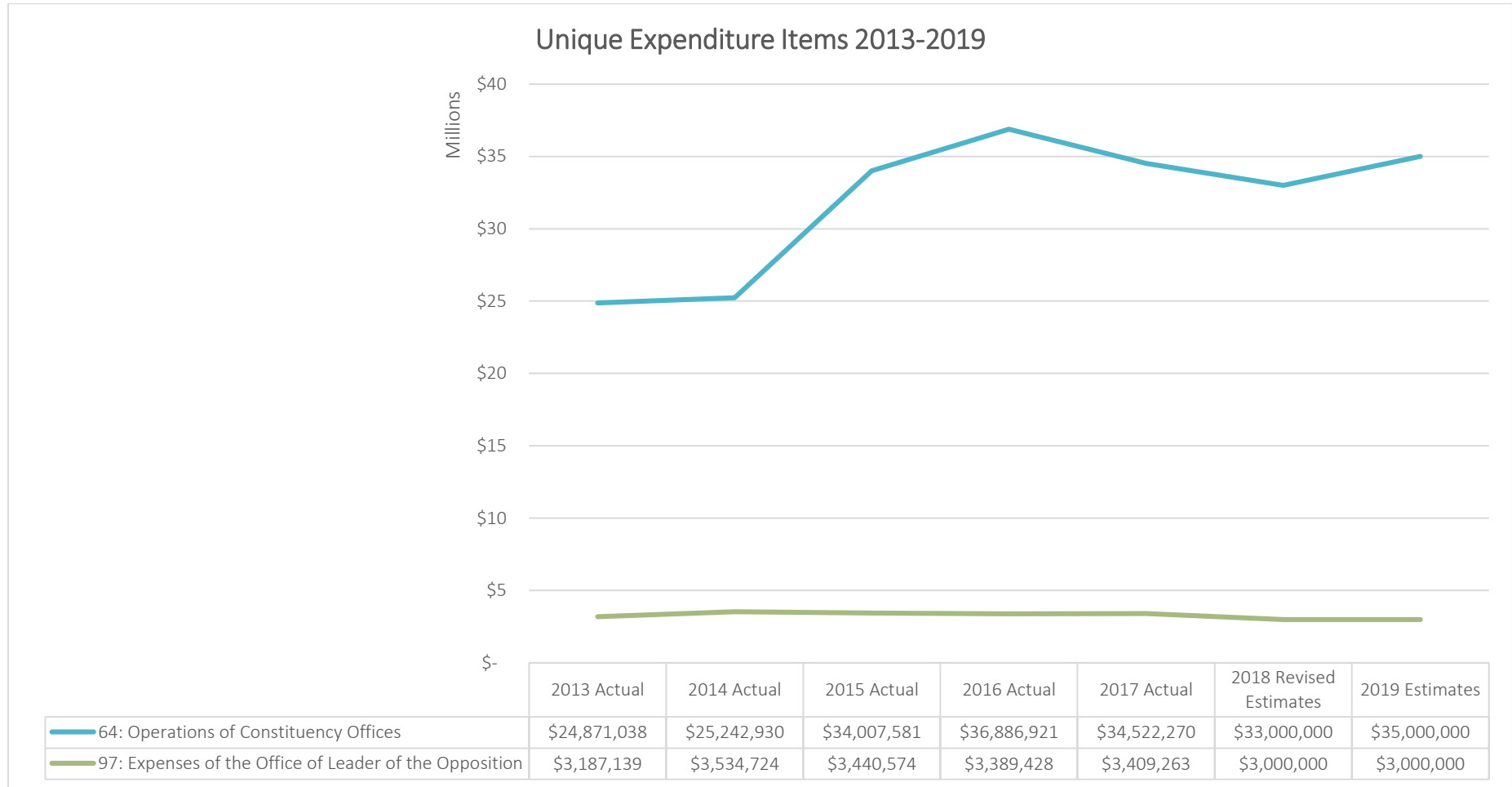
Analysis of Summary of Expenditure

Recurrent Expenditure refers to the payments for expenses which are incurred during the day-to-day operations of the Office of the Parliament for Personnel Expenditure, Goods and Services, Minor Equipment Purchases and Current Transfers and Subsidies.

- **Recurrent Expenditure** for Fiscal Year **2018/2019** is estimated at **\$119,000,000.00**. This represents **0.22%** of the total Recurrent Expenditure for the financial year **2018/2019**.
- **Recurrent Expenditure** for Fiscal Year **2017/2018** was **\$115,892,800.00** (revised). Comparing this figure with Fiscal Year **2018/2019**, there is a slight increase of **2.7%**
- The largest portion of the Office of the Parliament's allocation has consistently gone to Sub-Head **02 - Goods and Services** which has fluctuated slightly over the period 2013 to 2018, with the lowest allocation in fiscal 2013 compared with the highest allocation in fiscal year 2016. The allocation of **\$91,037,500.00** represents a **0.6%** increase compared to fiscal year 2018.
- The 2019 estimates of **Personnel Expenditure** represents **23%** of the Parliament's total recurrent allocation.
- Over the period 2013-2016, **Current Transfers and Subsidies** consistently received the smallest allocation. However, over the period 2017-2019, this has changed. Minor Equipment Purchases now receives the smallest allocation
- **Minor Equipment Purchases** after peaking in fiscal year 2015, has been on a downward trend, with the lowest allocation in fiscal year 2018 (revised).

Analysis of Expenditure Unique to Office of the Parliament

Unique Expenditure refers to expenditure items incurred by the Office of the Parliament that may not feature in other Ministries or Departments.



Summary of Development Programme Expenditure for the period 2013-2019

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

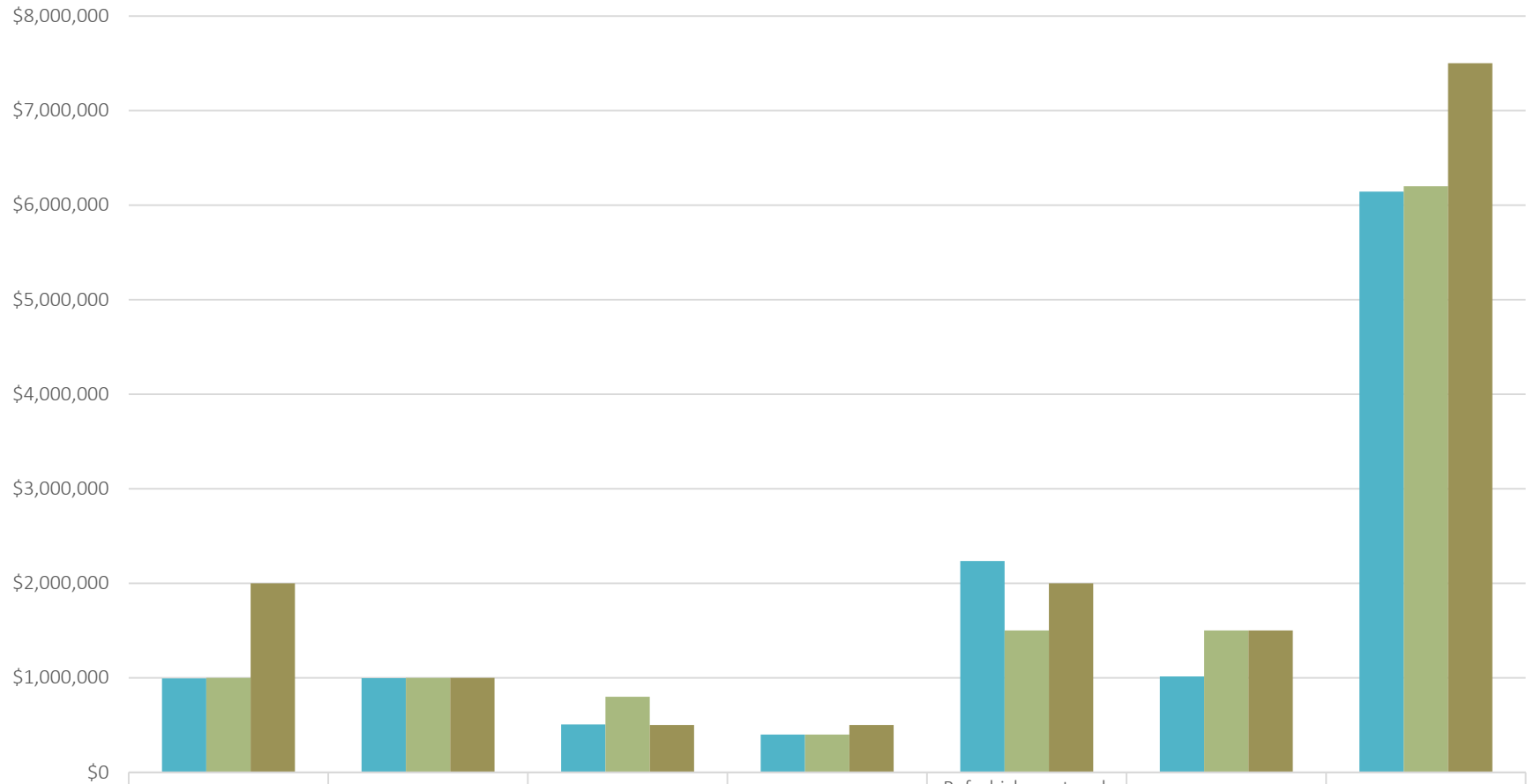
The PSIP budget document provides a detailed description of the programmes and projects and includes a review of the implementation of projects and programmes in the previous financial year and highlights the major projects and programmes to be implemented in the upcoming financial year.

- 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 allocation to the Office of the Parliament for development programmes and projects for fiscal year **2018/2019 = \$7,500,000.00⁹**. This represents funds disbursed directly from the Consolidated Fund. It also represents **6%** of the total allocation to the Department.

⁹ Estimates of Development Programme 2019. Accessed on October 1, 2018. <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-Of-Development-Programme-New-2019.pdf>

Development Programme Expenditure 2017 - 2019



	Televising and Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings	Upgrade of Networking Systems at the offices of the Parliament	Institutional Strengthening of the Parliament	Digitalizing and Archiving of Laws of Trinidad and Tobago	Refurbishment and Re-tooling of Constituency Offices of the Members of the House of Representatives	Restoration of the Red House – Technical Team	Total
■ 2017 Actual	\$992,346	\$994,654	\$506,877	\$399,834	\$2,233,684	\$1,014,263	\$6,141,658
■ 2018 Revised Estimates	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$800,000	\$400,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$6,200,000
■ 2019 Estimates	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$7,500,000

The Office of the Parliament's total allocation as a percentage of the National Budget for the period 2013 to 2019.

Year ¹⁰	Total Allocation ¹¹	National Budget ¹²	Percentage of National Budget
2013	\$ 134,092,169.00	\$ 59,174,226,196.00	0.2%
2014	\$ 152,985,431.00	\$ 65,020,886,424.00	0.2%
2015	\$ 153,010,362.00	\$ 61,966,922,675.00	0.2%
2016	\$ 136,502,615.00	\$ 56,573,913,053.00	0.2%
2017	\$ 127,215,401.00	\$ 54,883,153,410.00	0.2%
2018	\$ 122,092,800.00	\$ 54,330,404,592.00	0.2%
2019	\$ 126,500,000.00	\$ 55,582,977,415.00	0.2%

- Total allocation for the Office of the Parliament as a percentage of the National Budget remains at an estimated 0.2%, which is consistent with the trend over the past seven (7) years.

¹⁰ For the Fiscal Years 2013-2017, actual figures were used to calculate the Ministry's total allocation. However, estimates were used to determine the Department's total allocation for the Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019.

¹¹ Total Allocation for the EBC= Recurrent Expenditure + Consolidated Fund + IDF where applicable in a given fiscal year.

¹² The National Budget= Total Recurrent Expenditure + Total Development Programme Consolidated Fund

Auditor General Report Findings for the Fiscal year 2017

Ref: Auditor General's Report¹³

05-PARLIAMENT

Restoration of the Red House

- This Project is presently being administered by the Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago (UDeCOTT) and is in its seventh year with expenditure totalling \$81,251,467.50. Evidence was seen that the project is being monitored.
- In 2016, responsibility for the Restoration Works of the Red House was transferred to the Office of the Prime Minister and a sub-committee of Cabinet was established by the Prime Minister to provide the necessary oversight for implementation of the project.

¹³ Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the Financial Year ended September 30, 2017-
<http://138.128.179.50/sites/default/files/Auditor%20Generals%20Report%20on%20the%20Public%20Accounts%202017.pdf> pg 35

General Useful Information

- Parliament of India, INDIA: <http://parliamentofindia.nic.in/>
- Parliament, UK: <https://www.parliament.uk/>
- Parliament of Canada, CAN: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/Default.aspx?Language=E>
- Parliament of Australia, AUS : <http://www.aph.gov.au/>