

**HONG KONG SPECIAL
ADMINISTRATIVE REGION**

Audit Commission

Annual Report 2023-24

**Audit Commission
Hong Kong
August 2024**

AUDIT COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

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Director's Message

It is with gratitude and honour that I conclude and reflect on my second year as the Director of Audit. The past year was another strenuous and rewarding one for the Audit Commission, and it was my privilege to lead the team in serving the public by means of an array of public sector auditing work. I am pleased to present this Annual Report of the Audit Commission for the financial year 2023-24, which summarises our efforts and achievements over the year.

2. Our mission is to help the Government and public sector organisations enhance public sector performance and accountability. We achieve this mission by conducting regularity audits and value for money (VFM) audits.

3. Regularity audits are similar to financial audits in the private sector. In 2023-24, a total of 86 accounts were audited and certified, including all of the accounts of the Government, and the accounts of the Hong Kong Housing Authority, the Exchange Fund, five Trading Funds and more than 60 other funds. We also perform risk and compliance audits to help ensure that government systems/programmes are operating within the approved ambit and that the spending is incurred in accordance with laid-down policy objectives and conditions. As an integral part of our regularity audit work, risk and compliance audits supplement our normal certification audit work.

4. VFM audits focus on providing independent information, advice and assurance about the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which the auditees have discharged their functions. We take into account various factors such as materiality, timeliness, amount of public money and risk involved, value added in selecting subjects for VFM audits. We aim to make value-added recommendations to help the auditees achieve better VFM. In 2023-24, we issued a number of VFM audit reports which attracted considerable public attention.

5. To foster a closer professional relationship with our counterparts on the Mainland, I led our senior officers on exchange visits to Beijing and the Greater Bay Area in June and July 2023 respectively. These visits served as very good opportunities to gain from our motherland the spirit and practical skills in auditing and understand the latest development in auditing work on the Mainland, and further enhance our collaboration with fellows from all parts of the nation. Over the year, I also participated in various conferences, talks and seminars, which strengthened our network with different sectors. These occasions also provided us with a platform to tell the good stories of Hong Kong and public sector auditing.

6. In the past year, members of our staff were blessed with precious opportunities to take part in the United Nations (UN) audit projects as part of the National Audit Office of the People's Republic of China (CNAO) delegation. Since April 2023, upon the completion of the CNAO training in Beijing, three Auditors has been tasked to carry out UN audit assignments as members of the CNAO audit team in various places (e.g. New York and Central Africa). In addition, three other Auditors had also completed the CNAO training for taking up the UN audit work ahead. Through such invaluable international exposure, not only did our Auditors gain in professional and personal growth, but they also had the chance to have exchanges in technical know-how with industry elites and contribute their efforts to the UN.

7. Apart from striving to provide quality auditing services, we are also devoted to serve the community through youth and voluntary activities. In 2023-24, we were delighted to take part in the Education Bureau's "Business-School Partnership Programme" with an aim to better equip students in navigating their way forward in further studies and career. Keeping our commitment to social responsibility, we continued to join hands with different parties to bring support and warmth to different people in the community by means of voluntary services. In the future, we will continue to engage in youth and voluntary work with the aspiration to build a community of harmony and integration.

8. We shall continue to uphold our values on professionalism, probity and people, which underpin and drive our work. The professionalism and expertise of our audit staff are vital to the success of the Commission. We will strive to help our staff develop and grow as professionals. In this regard, various training programmes, such as national studies courses and in-house seminars, are provided to our staff of all levels. We are committed to encouraging and helping our staff realise their full potential through training, learning and sharing.

9. I wish to express appreciation for the continuous support of the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislative Council to our work over the past year. I would also like to acknowledge with gratitude the full cooperation and assistance rendered by the auditees. Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to my staff members for their unfailing support. Their dedication, resilience and professionalism have enabled the Commission to deliver quality audit services, which help enhance public sector performance and accountability.

Prof. LAM Chi Yuen Nelson, JP
Director of Audit
August 2024



Role and work of the Audit Commission

1. **Independence.** According to [Article 58 of the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region](#), a Commission of Audit shall be established in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). It shall function independently and be accountable to the Chief Executive.
2. **Audit Ordinance.** The [Audit Ordinance \(Cap. 122\)](#) provides for the duties and powers of the Director of Audit and for the auditing of and reporting on the public accounts. In the performance of his duties and the exercise of his powers under this Ordinance, the Director shall not be subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority. The certification audit work carried out under the Ordinance is generally known as regularity audit.
3. **Reporting to the Legislative Council.** According to the Audit Ordinance, the Director of Audit shall prepare and submit to the President of [Legislative Council](#) (LegCo) a report in respect of his examination and audit of the accounts of the Government. A copy of the report and certified statements shall be laid before LegCo. According to the [Value for Money Audit Guidelines](#), the Director of Audit shall report his findings on Value for money (VFM) audits to LegCo twice a year.
4. **Value for Money Audit Guidelines.** VFM audits are carried out under a set of guidelines tabled in the Provisional Legislative Council by the Chairman of the [Public Accounts Committee](#) (PAC) in February 1998. The VFM Audit Guidelines were agreed between the PAC and the Director of Audit and accepted by the Government.
5. **Public Accounts Committee.** The PAC of LegCo considers the reports of the Director of Audit on the accounts of the Government, on such other accounts required to be laid before LegCo as the PAC may think fit, and on any matter incidental to the performance of the Director's duties or the exercise of his powers as the PAC may think fit. The PAC also considers VFM audit reports of the Director laid on the Table of LegCo.
6. **Follow-up actions of the Audit Commission.** The Audit Commission (Audit) has put in place a mechanism to monitor the development of VFM audit

subjects included in the Director of Audit's Reports. For subjects selected for investigation by the PAC, Audit conducts an annual clearance exercise to inform the PAC of the latest developments of issues raised in the PAC's Reports. The PAC, in its reports, takes stock of the progress of the action taken by the Government on the PAC's recommendations, and offers the PAC's views on the action taken. The Government's response to the PAC's Report is contained in the Government Minute which is tabled in LegCo twice a year. For subjects not selected for investigation by the PAC, Audit directly calls for separate progress reports from the auditees concerned on a half-yearly basis, and reviews the latest developments. If the situation warrants, Audit may conduct follow-up audit reviews on issues raised in previous VFM audits. The review results are published in the Director of Audit's Report.

7. *Organisation of the Audit Commission.* Audit is made up of six Divisions, namely one Regularity Audit Division, four VFM Audit Divisions, and one Corporate Services Division. As at 31 March 2024, Audit had an establishment of 198 posts. There were 66 posts (33%) in the Auditor grade, 92 posts (47%) in the Examiner grade and 40 posts (20%) in the general and common grades.

Regularity audit

8. The aim of regularity audits is to provide LegCo with an overall assurance that the Government's financial and accounting transactions and those of funds of a public or quasi-public nature are proper and that they conform to accepted accounting standards. Regularity audits are carried out mainly under the Audit Ordinance and in accordance with the Audit Commission auditing standards.

9. Regularity audits are conducted in accordance with a programme of work, which is determined annually by the Director of Audit. Audit adopts a risk-based approach to the planning and conduct of regularity audit. Compared with private-sector auditors, we put more emphasis on the regularity and probity aspects due to the statutory duties of the Director of Audit under section 8 of the Audit Ordinance. We supplement our normal certification audit work with a programme of risk and compliance audits, which examines risks related to regularity, propriety and financial control.

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The year under review

10. On 30 October 2023, the Director of Audit submitted the Report of the Director of Audit on the Accounts of the Government of the HKSAR for the year ended 31 March 2023 to the President of LegCo.

11. In 2023-24, a total of 86 accounts were audited and certified, i.e. all of the Government's accounts, and the accounts of the Hong Kong Housing Authority, the Exchange Fund, five Trading Funds and 69 other funds. Appendix A is a list of these 86 accounts.

12. Our regularity audit workload has been increasing because we have to cope with the additional workload arising from:

- (a) ***Strengthening our risk and compliance audit programme.*** In view of the increase in the number of government systems/programmes that involved significant spending and transactions, Audit needs to carry out more in-depth reviews or risk and compliance audits on the systems/programmes. Attention has also been given to ensuring that the systems/programmes are operating within the approved ambit and that the spending is incurred in accordance with laid-down policy objectives and conditions. To help ensure regularity, propriety and controls, our efforts have been directed towards auditing/assessing the effectiveness of the bureaux/departments' preventive and detective controls, and follow-up and rectification processes of detected errors and irregularities; and
- (b) ***New accounting and auditing standards.*** To maintain convergence with the international standards, the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA) continues to issue new and revised accounting and auditing standards from time to time. We have deployed resources to implement the new auditing requirements, and to ensure compliance with the new and revised accounting standards by the auditees in preparing their financial statements under accrual basis of accounting.

Value for money audit

13. The aim of VFM audits is to provide independent information, advice and assurance about the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which the auditees (i.e. bureaux/departments of the Government, agencies, other public bodies, public offices or audited organisations) have discharged their functions.

14. VFM audits are carried out under the VFM Audit Guidelines. Like regularity audits, VFM audits are conducted in accordance with the Audit Commission Auditing Standards and a programme of work determined annually by the Director of Audit. Our VFM audits are generally planned and scheduled about one year in advance, after taking into account the availability of our resources as well as factors such as materiality, timeliness, amount of public money and risk involved, value added in selecting subjects for VFM audit. In conducting VFM audits under the VFM Audit Guidelines, the Director of Audit is entitled to exercise the powers given to him under the Audit Ordinance. However, he is not entitled to question the merits of the policy objectives, but he may question the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of the means used to achieve them.

The year under review

15. In 2023-24, two Director of Audit's Reports on the results of VFM audits, each comprising eight audit subjects, were submitted to the President of LegCo in April ([Report No. 80](#)) and October 2023 ([Report No. 81](#)), covering a total of 16 subjects.

16. The PAC selected the following three subjects for public hearing:

- (a) "Maintenance and improvement of school premises for aided schools" (Chapter 5 of Report No. 80); and
- (b) "Licensing of food premises" and "Maintenance and modernisation of lifts and escalators in public rental housing estates" (Chapters 2 and 3 of Report No. 81).

The PAC also showed great interest in and investigated all of the remaining 13 chapters of the Director of Audit's Reports Nos. 80 and 81 by making written enquiries. The PAC examined at length a number of issues raised in these reports.

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The audit conclusions and recommendations were generally accepted by the PAC and the auditees. Like the VFM audit reports issued in past years, some audit subjects in these two reports hit the headlines of newspapers and were widely reported. In general, the media and the public were supportive of Audit's findings.

Corporate services

17. The Corporate Services Division of Audit is responsible for the provision of corporate services, which include overseeing matters relating to the PAC proceedings, departmental administration, the Director of Audit's Report production work, translation services, technical audit, quality assurance, external and press relations, executive support, training, grade and personnel management, local area network administration, information technology (IT) support, and other support services.

The year under review

18. In 2023-24, our work on corporate services included:

- (a) ***Director of Audit's Report production work.*** The Director of Audit's Reports Nos. 80 and 81 were submitted to the President of LegCo in April and October 2023, and were tabled in LegCo in April and November 2023 respectively. Together with Report No. 81, the Report of the Director of Audit on the Accounts of the Government of the HKSAR for the year ended 31 March 2023 was also submitted to the President of LegCo in October 2023 and tabled in LegCo in November 2023. The Director of Audit's Reports are available on our website at https://www.aud.gov.hk/eng/pubpr_arpt/rpt.htm;
- (b) ***Support services.*** Our work in this area included:
 - (i) ***Review and updating of the Strategic Framework.*** The Strategic Framework, which has been effective from September 2013, was updated in December 2023. It sets out Audit's Vision, Mission and Values (see Appendix B) and also outlines our strategic objectives, strategies and outcomes in five Key Result Areas. Our key targets and indicators are set out in Appendix C, while the Strategic Framework in full is available on our website at https://www.aud.gov.hk/pdf_e/strategic2023_e.pdf;

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- (ii) **Media research.** We conducted media research on a daily basis (e.g. compiling newspaper clippings) to keep in view possible audit issues reported in the media. We also collected useful feedback (e.g. media comments and views from the public) on our published VFM audit reports to identify areas of improvement;
 - (iii) **IT support.** Our Departmental IT Plan for the two-year period 2023-24 to 2024-25 was approved by the Director of Audit in August 2023. It was used to monitor the development of IT projects in Audit; and
 - (iv) **Environmental Report.** Starting from 2001, an annual Environmental Report has been issued to help promote environmental protection. The Environmental Reports are available on our website at https://www.aud.gov.hk/eng/otherinfo/info_envrpt.htm;
- (c) **Training and development.** We made use of the services provided by the Civil Service College to meet the training needs of our staff. Staff were encouraged to apply for courses relevant to their work and personal needs. Apart from that, Audit staff were offered the following training and development opportunities to keep abreast of the latest development in auditing techniques and broaden their horizons:
- (i) **In-house seminars/workshops.** They are organised mainly to address the operational needs of Audit and the personal development of our staff. Held regularly throughout the year, these departmental training sessions cover a variety of areas including national studies (e.g. enhancing understanding on Hong Kong National Security Law, overview of the Central Auditing Commission and sharing by staff who participated in national studies programmes), auditing techniques and leadership enhancement; and
 - (ii) **National Audit Office of the People's Republic of China secondment - United Nations audit assignments.** Three Auditors attended the National Audit Office of the People's Republic of China (CNAO) audit training programme in Beijing in March 2023 and, as members of the CNAO audit team, took part in three separate United Nations (UN) assignments in form of field audits of more or less one month in New York and Central Africa respectively. Following their footsteps, another three Auditors completed the CNAO training

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in April 2024 and were prepared for joining the CNAO delegations to take part in the upcoming UN projects;

- (d) ***External and press relations.*** Our work in this area included:
- (i) ***Visit to Beijing.*** In June 2023, the Director of Audit led a delegation of the Commission to Beijing. The delegation visited the National Audit Office, the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council and the Beijing Municipal Audit Bureau. During the visits, the delegation gave briefings on Audit’s work and learnt about the latest development of auditing work on the Mainland;
 - (ii) ***Visit to the Greater Bay Area.*** In July 2023, the Director of Audit led a delegation of the Commission on a visit to three cities in the Greater Bay Area, namely, Guangzhou, Zhuhai and Shenzhen. The delegation met with officials of the Audit Office of Guangdong Province, the Guangzhou Municipal Audit Bureau, the Zhuhai Municipal Audit Bureau and the Shenzhen Municipal Audit Bureau to gain an understanding of the current situation of auditing work in the Greater Bay Area;
 - (iii) ***Participation in audit conference.*** In December 2023, the Director of Audit led five officers to attend the 7th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Audit Conference 2023 themed “*A study on the implementation and development trend of big data auditing under the empowerment of technology*” at Zhuhai. The conference served as an important and valuable platform for exchanges of experiences and practices of big data auditing among the participating professionals;
 - (iv) ***Participation in talks and exchanges.*** Last year, the Director of Audit actively participated in various functions, in which he delivered speeches to and shared thoughts with members of the industry. These occasions included a conference themed “*AI in IA – Agility & Innovation in Internal Audit*” hosted by the Institute of Internal Auditors Hong Kong in October 2023, another conference themed “*Green Grow Govern*” organised by the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants in November 2023, and also the 5th Hong Kong Public Organisations Internal Audit Roundtable in January 2024 on performance audits held at the Commission’s headquarters;

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- (v) ***Industry and public relations work.*** In 2023-24, the Director of Audit attended various events held by professional bodies and local organisations to show his support and dedication to the auditing industry and the community. For example, in November 2023, he led three Auditors to take part in a sharing session jointly organised by the Society of Chinese Accountants and Auditors and the Accounting Development Foundation, during which they shared their work at Audit and views on the future development of public sector auditing. The Director also joined another sharing session hosted by the Rotary Club of Kowloon West in January 2024 and expressed views to participants on public sector auditing and governance systems. These events proved to be excellent opportunities for the Commission to forge stronger bonds with the auditing community and the general public;
 - (vi) ***Press relations work.*** During the year, Audit strengthened its publicity effort to enhance its public image through increasing its media exposure. Several interviews with different press organisations (including local newspapers and online media) were conducted, during which the Director of Audit promoted the work of the Commission and told the good stories of both Hong Kong and public sector auditing;
 - (vii) ***Public engagement with social media.*** Since the launch of Audit's Instagram and Facebook pages in August 2023, posts had been published regularly to share information and the latest news of Audit, as well as to help promote important initiatives and messages of the Government; and
 - (viii) ***Promotion of District Council Election.*** In November and December 2023, in concerted efforts with other Government departments, Audit assisted in promoting the District Council election through various means and channels with an aim to encourage members of the public to cast their votes. Such efforts included producing promotional video, setting up a promotion booth and disseminating messages through Audit's social media platforms and website, etc.; and
- (e) ***Voluntary and youth services.*** Audit was keen to contribute in youth development, as well as support the Government's appeal to the civil servants for active participation in charity and volunteer events. Last

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year, the Commission engaged in a number of activities with a vision to assist young people and reach out to the community:

- (i) in June 2023, our staff volunteered at an organic farming carnival at GREEN@EASTERN to promote local organic farming and green living to the community;
- (ii) as a partner organisation of the Education Bureau's "Business-School Partnership Programme", Audit organised a "Work Experience Programme" in August 2023 for secondary school students. During the one-day career planning activity, Audit gave the students a hands-on public sector auditing experience which aimed to better equip them in navigating their way forward in further studies and career;
- (iii) in September 2023, Audit staff served as volunteers and joined hands with the staff and physically disabled members of the Hong Kong PHAB Association to make mooncakes for celebrating Mid-Autumn Festival;
- (iv) in December 2023, volunteers from Audit paid a visit to the elderly residents of Ching Chung Rev. Hau Po Woon Neighbourhood Elderly Centre in Tin Shui Wai. During the visit, the volunteers played games with the elderly, and gave them hot packs and snacks as early festive treats; and
- (v) in March 2024, volunteers from Audit and their family members took part in "Toy Reborn Engineer" – a community service event organised by the YMCA of Hong Kong to clean, organise and refurbish recycled old toys for re-gifting to other children.

Audit showcased its passion and support to create harmony in the community through participation in charity and volunteer events. Getting in touch with people from all walks of life through these activities, our staff gained a deeper understanding of the needs of members of the public, which enabled them to be more empathetic in delivering public service in their positions. The Director of Audit was an active participant in the Commission's voluntary services and stood as a role model to his staff in delivering corporate social responsibility. In the coming days, we will continue to serve the community with empathy and care, and make full contribution to the society.

Looking ahead

19. Audit has a long history of excellence in providing independent, professional and quality audit services to help the Government and public sector organisations enhance public sector performance and accountability. This year marks the Audit's 180th anniversary. Backed by our time-honoured experience and pool of auditing talents, we will, while adhering to our *modus operandi* which has proven to be effective, suitably adjust our programme of work pursuant to our established criteria in response to the changing environment. In addition, it is of paramount importance to continue to uphold our values, maintain our independent role, provide quality audit services, maintain effective relation with our stakeholders, interact with our counterparts and develop the potential of our staff to achieve our motto of "excellence in public sector auditing".

The 86 accounts certified in 2023-24

Accounts of the Government

- (1) General Revenue Account
- (2) Bond Fund
- (3) Capital Investment Fund
- (4) Capital Works Reserve Fund
- (5) Civil Service Pension Reserve Fund
- (6) Disaster Relief Fund
- (7) Innovation and Technology Fund
- (8) Land Fund
- (9) Loan Fund
- (10) Lotteries Fund

Trading Funds

- (11) Companies Registry Trading Fund
- (12) Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund
- (13) Land Registry Trading Fund
- (14) Office of the Communications Authority Trading Fund
- (15) Post Office Trading Fund

Other Funds

- (16) Accounting and Financial Reporting Council
- (17) AIDS Trust Fund
- (18) Anti-epidemic Fund
- (19) Bankruptcy Estate Account
- (20) Brewin Trust Fund
- (21) Chinese Temples Fund
- (22) Companies Liquidation Account
- (23) Competition Tribunal Suitors' Funds
- (24) Correctional Services Children's Education Trust
- (25) Correctional Services Department Welfare Fund
- (26) Customs and Excise Service Children's Education Trust Fund
- (27) Customs and Excise Service Welfare Fund
- (28) Director of Social Welfare Incorporated Accounts
- (29) District Court Suitors' Funds
- (30) Education Scholarships Fund
- (31) Emergency Relief Fund
- (32) Environment and Conservation Fund
- (33) Exchange Fund
- (34) Fire Services Department Welfare Fund

- (35) Fisheries Development Loan Fund
- (36) General Chinese Charities Fund
- (37) Gifted Education Fund
- (38) Government Flying Service Welfare Fund
- (39) Grant Schools Provident Fund
- (40) Grantham Scholarships Fund
- (41) High Court Suitors' Funds
- (42) HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund
- (43) Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal Suitors' Funds
- (44) Hong Kong Housing Authority
- (45) Hong Kong Rotary Club Students' Loan Fund
- (46) Immigration Service Welfare Fund
- (47) Independent Commission Against Corruption Welfare Fund
- (48) J. E. Joseph Trust Fund
- (49) Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund
- (50) Labour Tribunal Suitors' Funds
- (51) Lands Tribunal Suitors' Funds
- (52) Language Fund
- (53) Legal Aid Services Council
- (54) Li Po Chun Charitable Trust Fund

- (55) MacLehose Fund
- (56) Master in Lunacy Account
- (57) Minor Employment Claims Adjudication Board Suitors' Funds
- (58) Official Administrator's Account
- (59) Official Receiver in Bankruptcy Account
- (60) Official Receiver in Voluntary Arrangement Account
- (61) Official Solicitor's Accounts
- (62) Pneumoconiosis Ex Gratia Fund
- (63) Police Children's Education Trust
- (64) Police Education and Welfare Trust
- (65) Police Welfare Fund
- (66) Prisoners' Education Trust Fund
- (67) Prisoners' Welfare Fund
- (68) Qualifications Framework Fund
- (69) Quality Education Fund
- (70) Queen Elizabeth Foundation for the Mentally Handicapped
- (71) Research Endowment Fund
- (72) Samaritan Fund
- (73) Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs Incorporated Accounts
- (74) Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund

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| (75) | Sing Tao Charitable Foundation Students' Loan Fund |
| (76) | Sir David Trench Fund for Recreation |
| (77) | Sir Edward Youde Memorial Fund |
| (78) | Sir Robert Black Trust Fund |
| (79) | Small Claims Tribunal Suitors' Funds |
| (80) | Social Work Training Fund |
| (81) | Student Activities Support Fund |
| (82) | Subsidized Schools Provident Fund |
| (83) | Supplementary Legal Aid Fund |
| (84) | The Legislative Council Commission |
| (85) | Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Fund |
| (86) | World Refugee Year Loan Fund |

Vision, Mission and Values

OUR VISION

Excellence in public sector auditing

We strive for excellence in the provision of independent public sector audit services through commitment to professionalism and innovation.

OUR MISSION

To provide independent, professional and quality audit services in order to help the Government and public sector organisations enhance public sector performance and accountability in Hong Kong

We achieve our Mission by:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- conducting regularity audits which provide the Legislative Council with an overall assurance that the Government's financial and accounting transactions and those of funds of a public or quasi-public nature are proper and that they conform to accepted accounting standards; and | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- conducting value for money audits which provide the Legislative Council with independent information, advice and assurance about the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which any bureau/department of the Government, agency, other public body, public office, or audited organisation has discharged its functions. |
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OUR VALUES

We are committed to upholding a high standard of integrity and conduct in discharging our audit responsibilities. We share a set of core values including *Professionalism*, *Probity* and *People-oriented*, which underpin all facets of our work including *Our services*, *Our culture* and *Our people*. These core values and their related attributes, as illustrated below, define the way we conduct ourselves in all the work we do.



Key Targets and Indicators

	Unit	Target	2022-23 (Actual)	2023-24 (Revised Estimate)	2024-25 (Plan)
Regularity Audit					
Targets					
Number of Director of Audit's Reports submitted to LegCo	Report	1	1	1	1
Time required to certify the statements of accounts of the Government of the HKSAR after the end of each financial year	Month	7	7	7	7
Indicators					
Number of accounts certified	Account		86	86	86
Number of man-hours spent	Man-hour		95 651	104 070	109 757
Provision for regularity audit as percentage of total government expenditure	%		0.009	0.010	0.010
Value for Money Audit					
Targets					
Number of Director of Audit's Reports submitted to LegCo	Report	2	3 (Note 1)	2	2
Number of VFM audit reports issued to audited bodies	Report	16 (Note 2)	20	16	16
Indicators					
Number of man-hours spent	Man-hour		144 616	155 902	168 191
Provision for VFM audit as percentage of total government expenditure	%		0.015	0.017	0.017

Note 1: In light of the COVID-19 epidemic, Audit, with the agreement of the President of LegCo, PAC and the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau, and the approval of the Chief Executive, deferred the submission of the Director of Audit's Report No. 78 from the original deadline of 7 April 2022 to no later than 31 October 2022 (which is the deadline for submission of Report No. 79).

Note 2: As stated in the Government's Estimates of Expenditure 2024-25 of Audit, the target is revised from 17 to 16 as from 2023.

Acronyms and abbreviations

Audit	Audit Commission
CNAO	National Audit Office of the People's Republic of China
HKICPA	Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants
HKSAR	Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
IT	Information technology
LegCo	Legislative Council
PAC	Public Accounts Committee
UN	United Nations
VFM	Value for money