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HEAD 08: ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

BUDGETARY ALLOCATION: $126,849,000

A Summary of the Ministry's Expenditure, Divisions and Projects.

Publication

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All correspondence should be addressed to:
The Secretary
Standing Finance Committee
Office of the Parliament
Parliamentary Complex
Cabildo Building
St. Vincent Street
Port of Spain
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Tel: (868) 624-7275 Ext 2125; Fax: (868) 625-4672
Email: standingfinance@ttparliament.org

Table of Contents

About this Guide 4
Head 08: Elections and Boundaries Commission 5
Role and Function 5
Key Statements from 2021 Standing Finance Committee 8
Supplementation of Appropriation for the fiscal year 2022 9
The Commission's total allocation as a percentage of the National Budget for the period 2017 to 2023 10
Where the Commission spends its money 11
2023 Estimate of Expenditure 11
Summary of Recurrent Expenditure for the period 2017-2023 12
Analysis of Recurrent Expenditure 17
Staff and Pay 18
Expenditure Unique to the Elections and Boundaries Commission 21
Summary of Development Programme Expenditure for the period 2016-2023 23
Major Programmes and Developments 24
General Useful Information 25

About this Guide

This guide provides a summary of expenditure for the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) for the period 2017-2023. It provides 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 (EBC) and provide readers with an analysis of same. This guide is based primarily on:

- the Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2023.
- the Estimates of Development Programme 2023; and
- the Auditor General's Report on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the fiscal year 2021.

Head 08: Elections and Boundaries Commission

Role and Function

The EBC is responsible for "registration of voters and the conduct of elections in every constituency", and "Procedure for review of constituency boundaries." The process of registration is voluntary, personal and permanent and no one is under any legal obligation to register. The system is described as permanent, in that once a registration is completed it remains on the records of the Commission unless circumstances arise warranting its cancellation. The Elections and Boundaries Commission is the successor institution of two separate bodies:

- a Boundaries Commission; and
- an Elections Commission.

These were amalgamated in the Republican Constitution[1] enacted in 1976.

Part IV of Chapter 4 of this Constitution provides inter alia for the establishment of the Commission, its membership, specific responsibility for "registration of voters and the conduct of elections in every constituency", and "Procedure for review of constituency boundaries." Part V provides for the System of Balloting and also refers to the Second Schedule of the Constitution in which the Rules are set out for the delimitation of constituency boundaries.[2]

Four pieces of legislation provide the Elections and Boundaries Commission with its legal and constitutional authority to conduct elections. They are:

- the Representation of the People Act Chap. 2:01 of the laws of Trinidad and Tobago
- the Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government) Act, Chap. 25:50
- the Municipal Corporations Act, 1990

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

[2] Elections and Boundaries Commission website, accessed on August 01, 2022, https://www.ebctt.com/about-us/role-and-function/

- the Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government and Tobago House of Assembly Act No. 40 of 1996

Mission[3]

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.

Structure of the Commission[4]

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.

The members of the Commission comprise 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 five years in the first instance but under the Constitution, the appointees are eligible for reappointment. The current membership of the Elections and Boundaries Commission comprises:

Chairman

- Mr. Mark Ramkerrysingh

Commissioners

- Mrs. Danielle F. Chow
- Mrs. Roslyn Khan Cummings

[3] Elections and Boundaries Commission website, accessed on August 01, 2022, https://www.ebctt.com/about-us/mission-and-vision/
[4] Elections and Boundaries Commission website, accessed on August 01, 2022, https://www.ebctt.com/about-us/structure-of-the-commission/

- Ms. Gillian Macintyre
- Dr. Wendell C. Wallace

Officers of the Commission

Responsible for setting its own agenda, the Commission gives policy directions to the staff headed by a Chief Election Officer. Some members of staff are appointed by the Public Service Commission (PSC), but the Commission is authorized to recruit on a short-term basis, other persons to perform functions that are largely related to registration of electors, administrative preparations for the conduct of elections and field operations throughout Trinidad and Tobago. Some members of staff are employed on contract. Officers of the Commission include:

Chief Election Officer – Mrs. Fern Narcis-Scope

Deputy Chief Election Officer – Ms. Lena Sahadeo

Assistant Chief Election Officer – Ms. Pamela Ogiste (Ag.)

The structure of the Elections and Boundaries Commission is based principally on a Central Electoral Office located at headquarters in Port of Spain, Fourteen (14) Registration Area Offices and four (4) sub-Offices. These offices are conveniently located throughout the country where persons can register to obtain their National Identification Cards and have their names included on the list of eligible electors subject to certain qualifying criteria.

Key Statements from 2021 Standing Finance Committee

During the Standing Finance Committee debate for fiscal year 2022, the following statement was made in relation to the emphasis of the Elections and Boundaries Commission for fiscal year 2022[5]:

"We all know the Elections and Boundaries Commission is an independent body appointed by the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and has the authority for the conduct of elections, both for parliamentary elections, local government elections and for Tobago House of Assembly elections."

- *The Honourable Colm Imbert, MP*

[5] Minister of Finance, Standing Finance Committee Hansard for the Elections and Boundaries Commission 20211014, Standing Finance Committee - October 14, 2021 - 1:30 p.m. (ttparliament.org)

Supplementation of Appropriation for the fiscal year 2022

During fiscal 2022, it was necessary to have a Supplementation of Appropriation of resources to fund urgent and critical Recurrent and Capital Expenditure in areas where insufficient or no allocation was provided. The source of these additional funds was the Consolidated Fund.

"…the Elections and Boundaries Commission is charged with the conduct of elections in Trinidad and Tobago. In this supplementation the total is $23,525,000 and it is spread among various Heads of – various Items of Recurrent Expenditure, including a supplementation for Travelling Subsistence; Telephones; Short-Term Employment; Other Contracted Services; Promotions, Publicity and Printing; election expenses of various types and equipment."[6]

- *The Honourable Colm Imbert, MP*

[6] https://www.ttparliament.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/p12-s2-J-20220516-SFC-R.pdf

The Commission's total allocation as a percentage of the National Budget for the period 2017 to 2023

Year[7]	Total Allocation[8]	National Budget[9]	Percentage of National Budget
2017	**$91,667,833**	**$54,883,153,410**	**0.17%**
2018	**$64,811,800**	**$54,330,404,592**	**0.12%**
2019	**$70,642,264**	**$54,581,467,181**	**0.13%**
2020	**$148,783,187**	**$57,388,076,726**	**0.26%**
2021	**$73,415,168**	**$56,498,472,820**	**0.13%**
2022	**$85,897,600**	**$59,190,331,126**	**0.15%**
2023	**$126,849,000**	**$67,944,048,911**	**0.19%**

- Total allocation for the Elections and Boundaries Commission as a percentage of the National Budget illustrated an increase in the allocation to the Elections and Boundaries Commission by 0.04% between the fiscal years **2022** and **2023.**

[7] For the Fiscal Years 2016-2021, actual figures were used to calculate the total allocation. However, estimates were used to calculate the total allocation for the Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023.
[8] Total Allocation for the Elections and Boundaries Commission = Recurrent Expenditure + Consolidated Fund Expenditure
[9] The National Budget = Total Recurrent Expenditure + Development Programme Expenditure: Consolidated Fund

Where the Commission spends its money

2023 Estimate of Expenditure

The budget allocation of $**126,849,000** for the Elections and Boundaries Commission is comprised of:

- The Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure in the sum of **$102,652,000**[10]; and
- The Draft Estimates of Development Programme in the sum of **$24,197,000**[11] which includes:
    - Consolidated Fund in the sum of **$24,197,000.**

The Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure include:

- 01 Personnel Expenditure – **$40,908,000**
- 02 Goods and Services – **$61,439,100**
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases – **$200,000**; and
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies - **$104,900.**

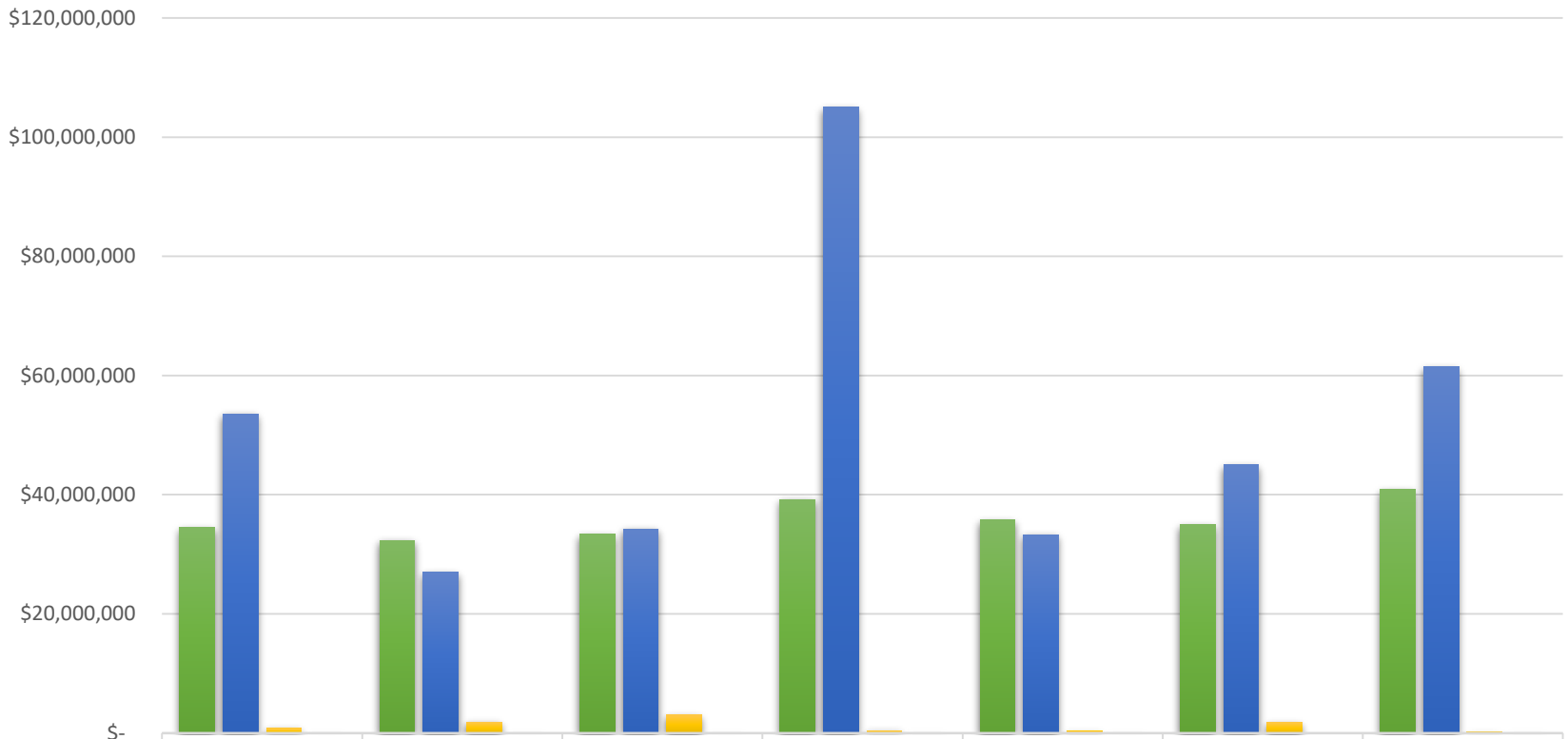
The Election and Boundaries Commission's:

- Total allocation as a percentage of National Budget = **0.19%**
- Recurrent Expenditure as a percentage of the total Recurrent Expenditure budget is = **0.16%**

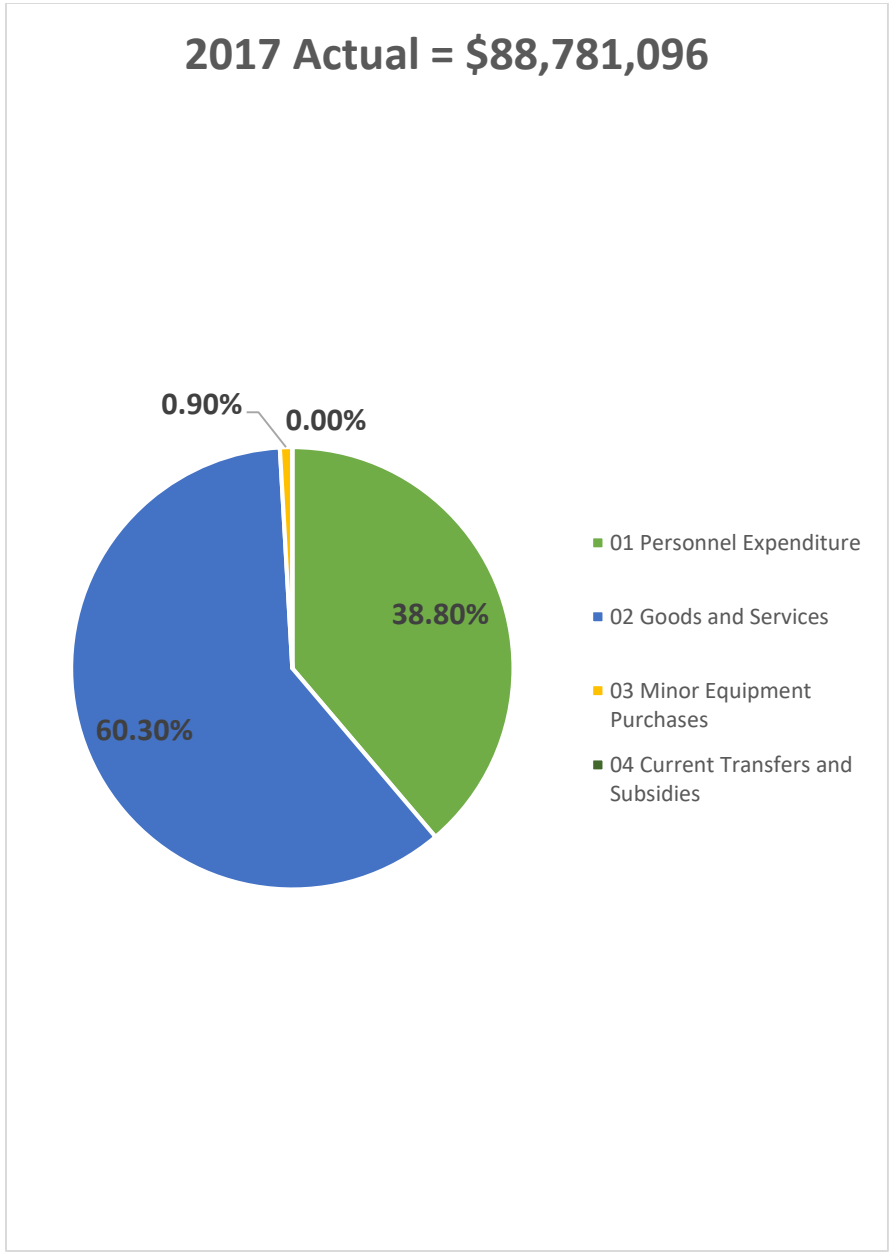
[10] Ministry of Finance website – Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2023 accessed on September 26, 2022 https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Draft-Estimates-of-Details-of-Estimates-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-for-the-Financial-Year-2023.pdf

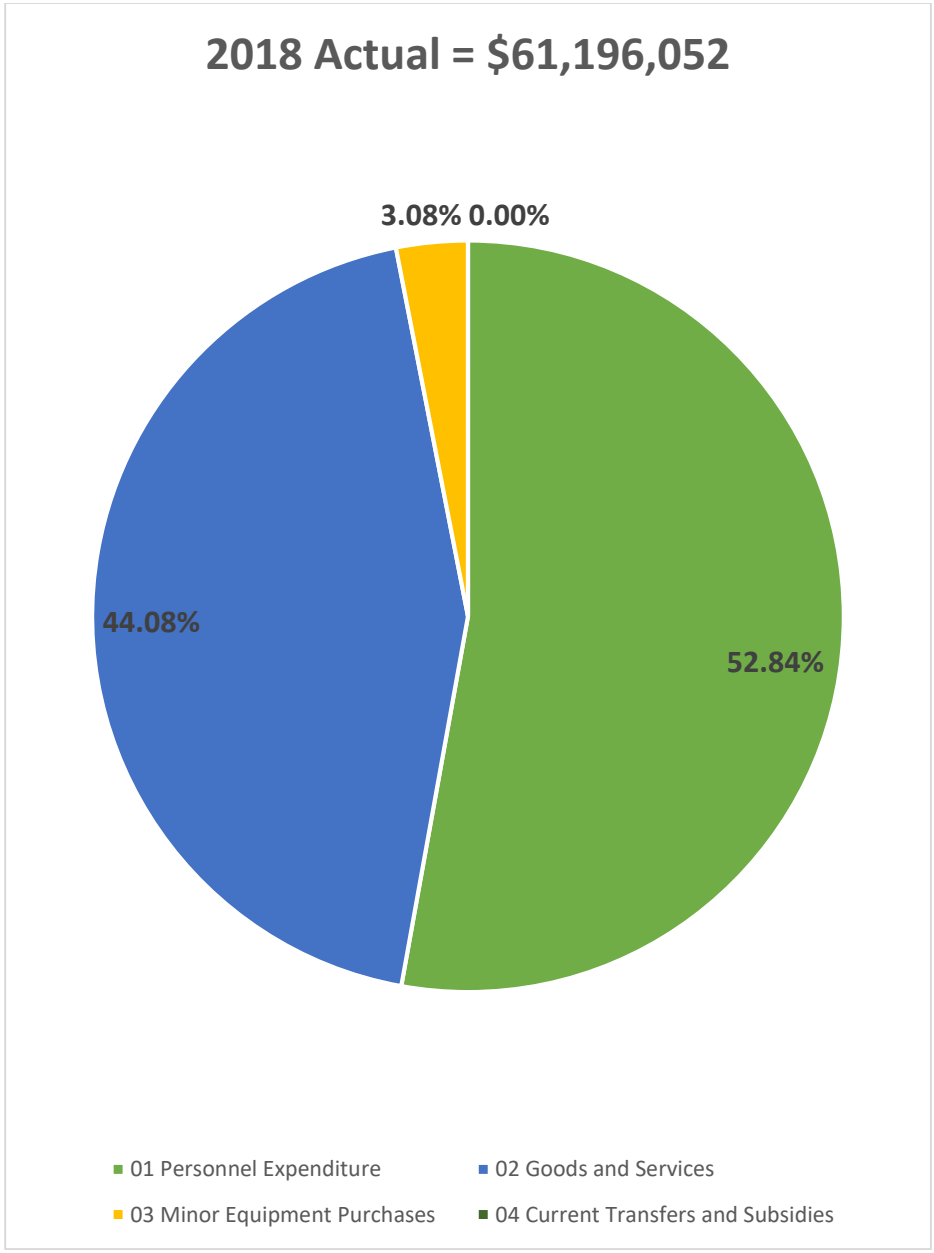
[11] Ministry of Finance website – Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2023 accessed on September 26, 2022 https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-for-the-Financial-Year-2023.pdf

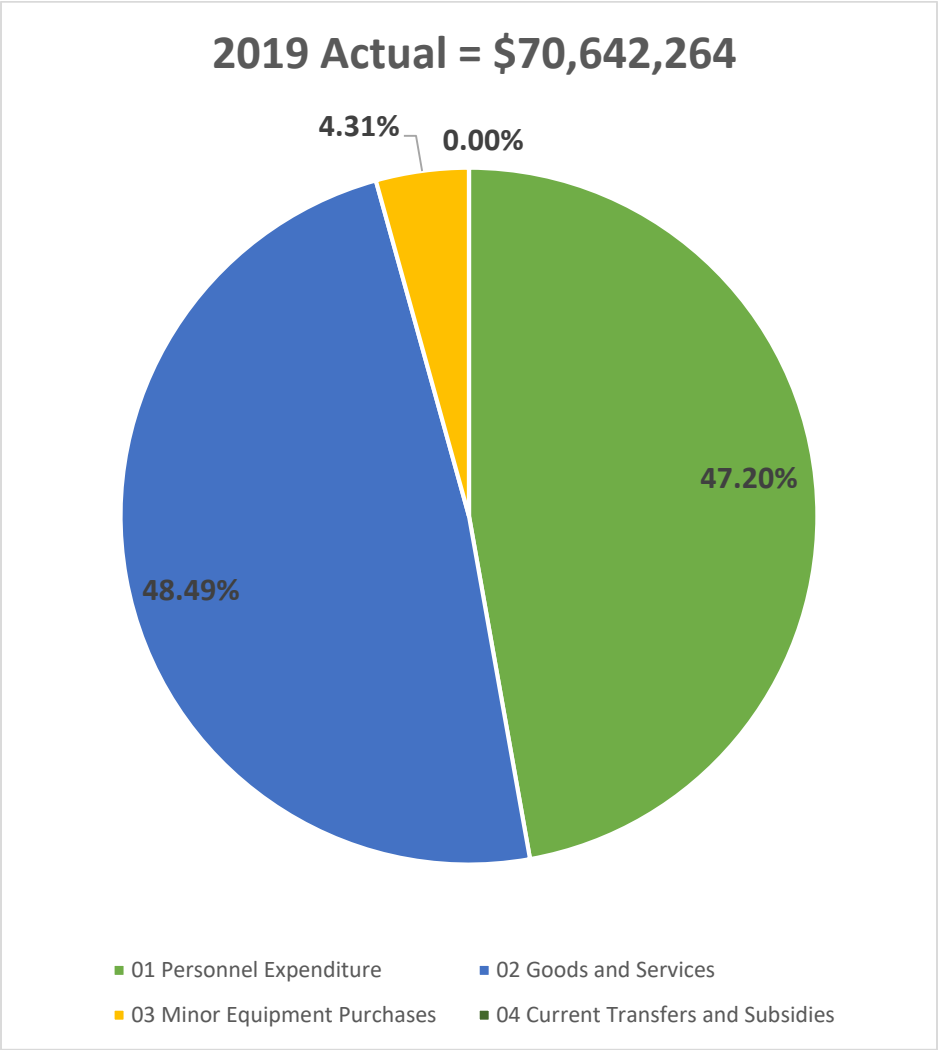
Summary of Recurrent Expenditure for the period 2017-2023

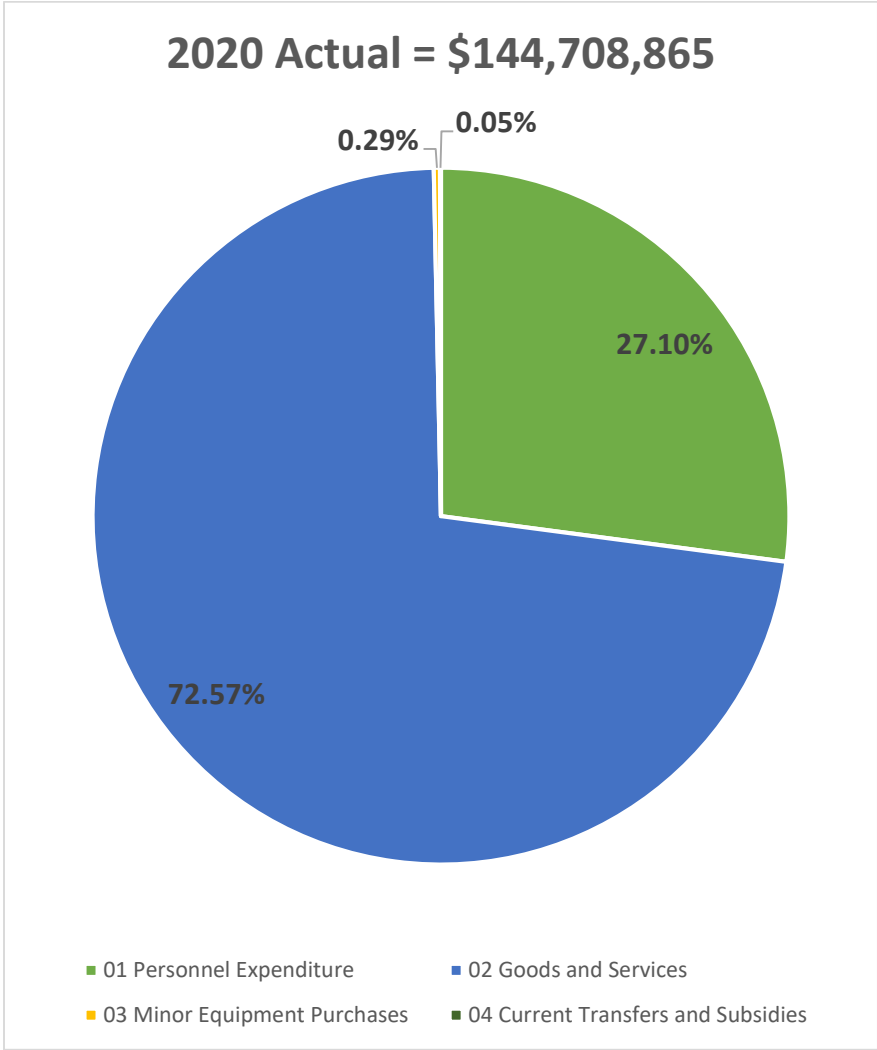


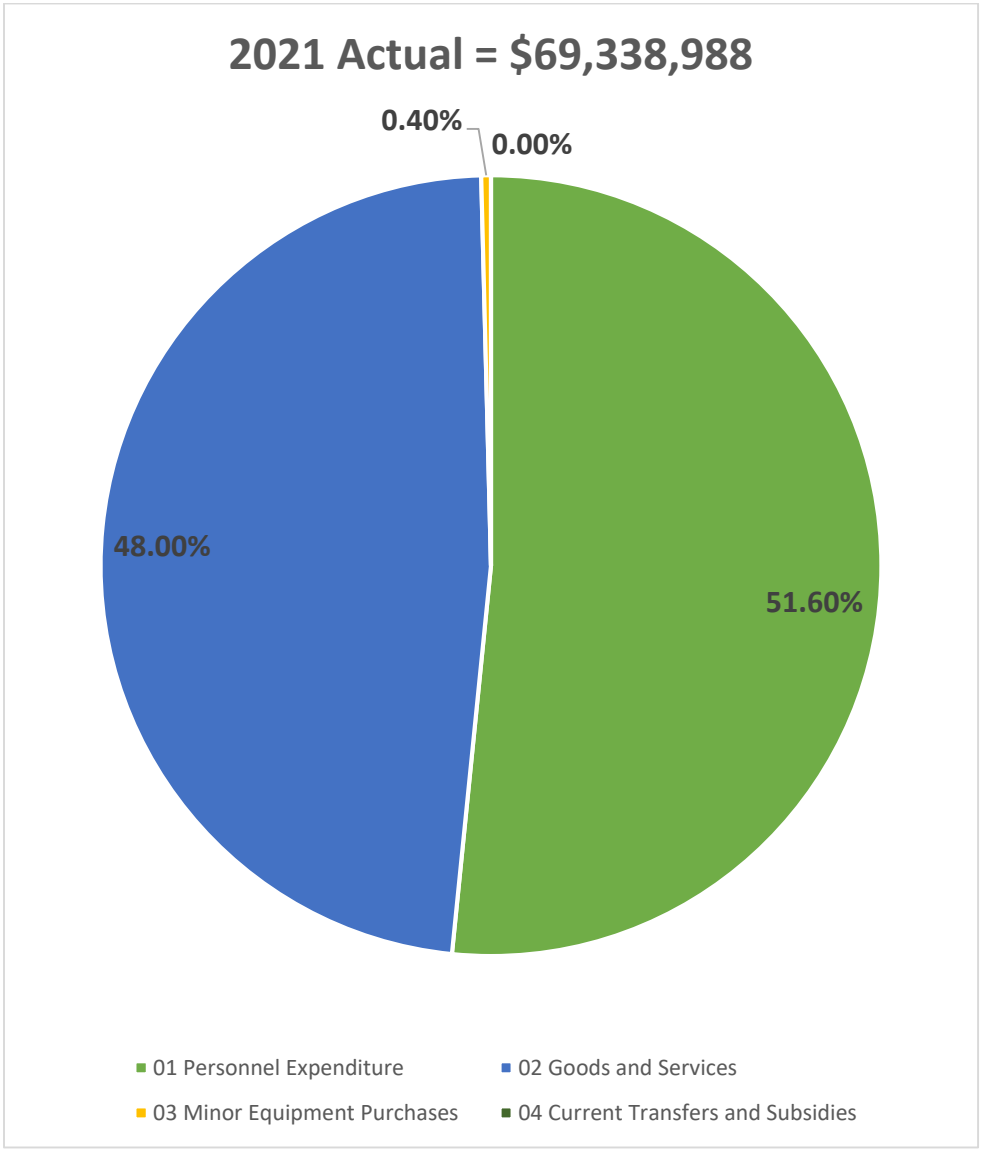
	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Revised Estimate	2023 Estimate
01 Personnel Expenditure	$34,443,837	$32,337,673	$33,340,588	$39,210,651	$35,776,538	$35,034,620	$40,908,000
02 Goods and Services	$53,538,295	$26,976,423	$34,257,064	$105,017,637	$33,284,966	$44,980,980	$61,439,100
03 Minor Equipment Purchases	$798,964	$1,881,956	$3,044,612	$413,617	$277,484	$1,825,400	$200,000
04 Current Transfers and Subsidies	$-	$-	$-	$66,960	$-		$104,900

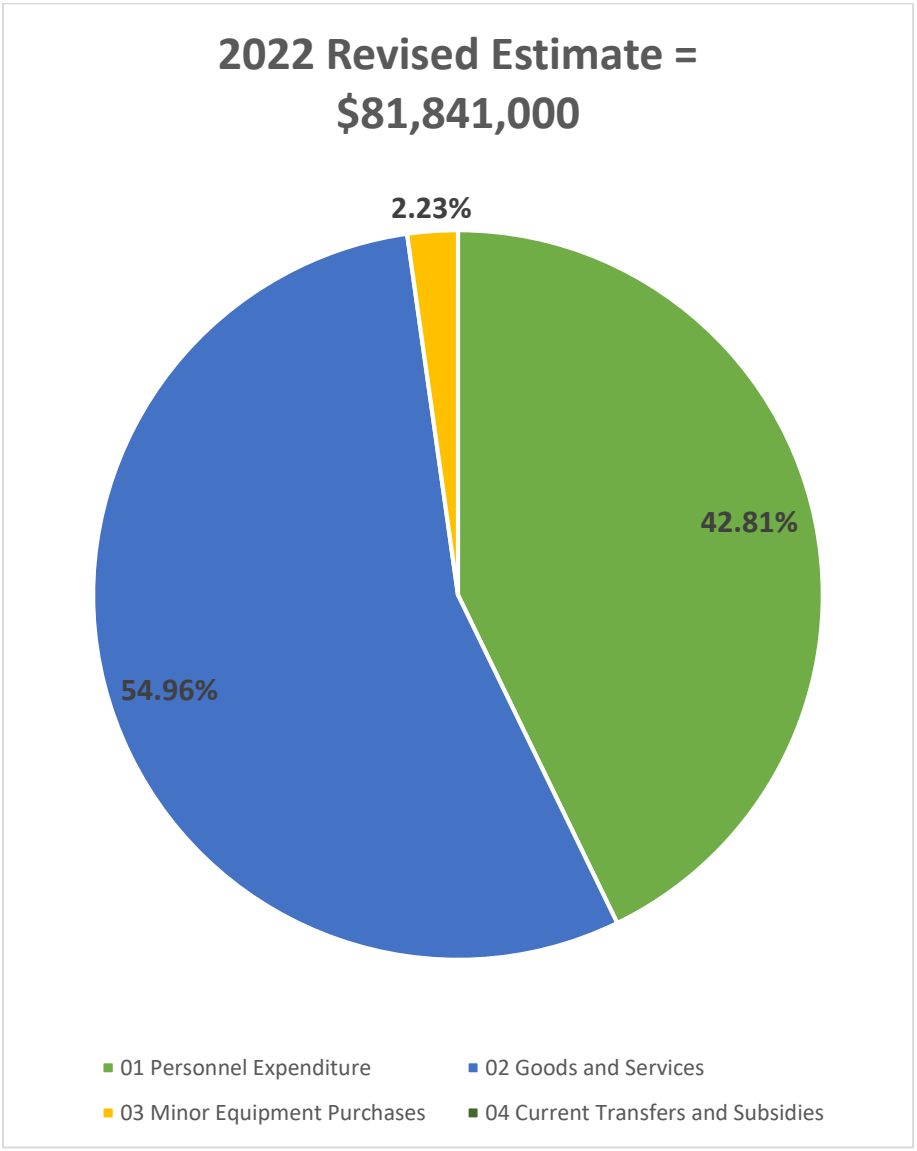

2017 Actual = $88,781,096
0.90%
0.00%
38.80%
60.30%
01 Personnel Expenditure
02 Goods and Services
03 Minor Equipment Purchases
04 Current Transfers and Subsidies

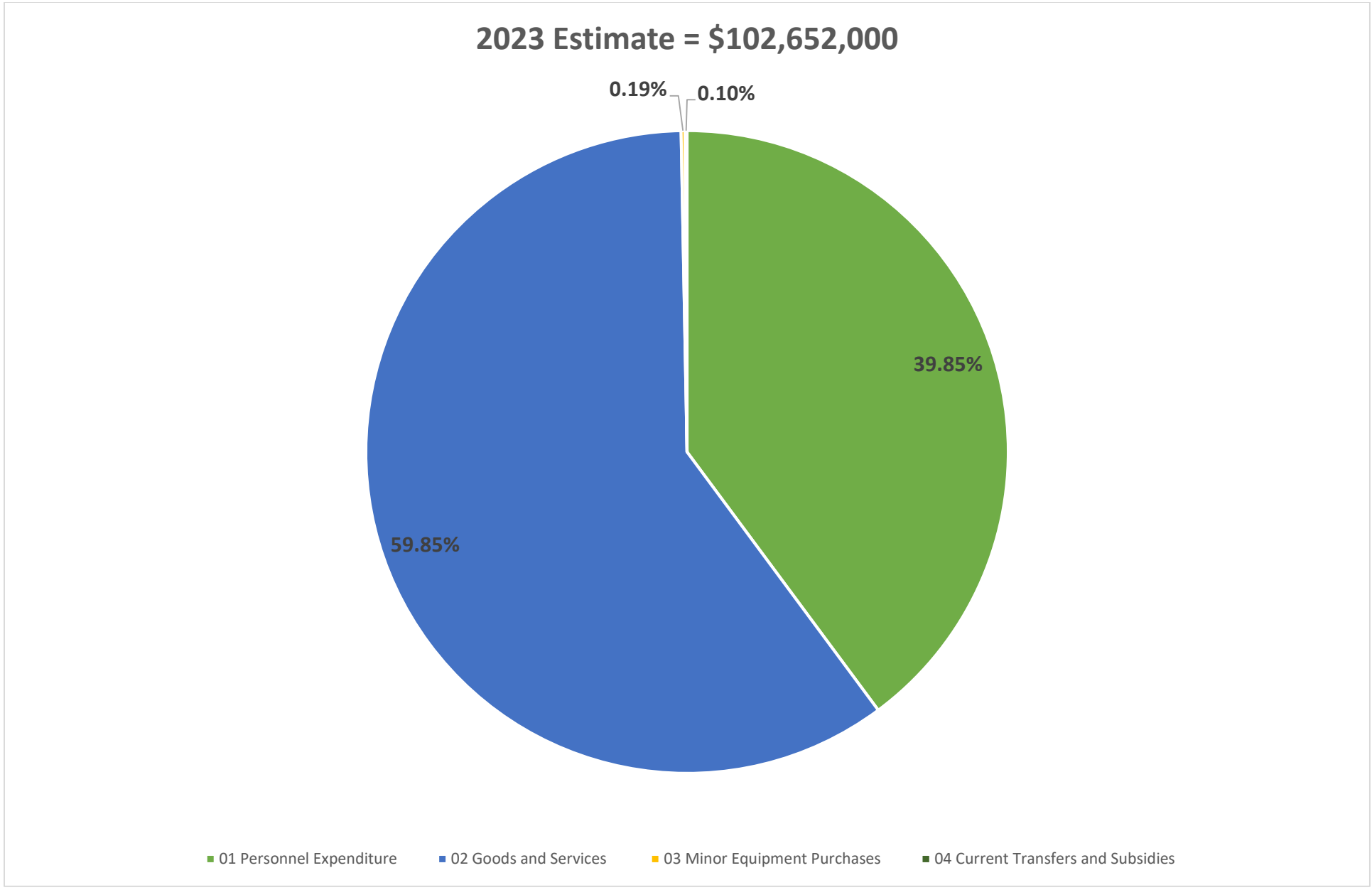

2018 Actual = $61,196,052
3.08%
0.00%
44.08%
52.84%
01 Personnel Expenditure
02 Goods and Services
03 Minor Equipment Purchases
04 Current Transfers and Subsidies


2019 Actual = $70,642,264
4.31%
0.00%
47.20%
48.49%
01 Personnel Expenditure
02 Goods and Services
03 Minor Equipment Purchases
04 Current Transfers and Subsidies


2020 Actual = $144,708,865
0.29%
0.05%
27.10%
72.57%
01 Personnel Expenditure
02 Goods and Services
03 Minor Equipment Purchases
04 Current Transfers and Subsidies


2021 Actual = $69,338,988
0.40%
0.00%
48.00%
51.60%
01 Personnel Expenditure
02 Goods and Services
03 Minor Equipment Purchases
04 Current Transfers and Subsidies


2022 Revised Estimate = $81,841,000
2.23%
42.81%
54.96%
01 Personnel Expenditure
02 Goods and Services
03 Minor Equipment Purchases
04 Current Transfers and Subsidies


2023 Estimate = $102,652,000
0.19%
0.10%
39.85%
59.85%
01 Personnel Expenditure
02 Goods and Services
03 Minor Equipment Purchases
04 Current Transfers and Subsidies

Analysis of Recurrent 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 2023 is **$102,652,000**. This represents **0.16**% of the total Recurrent Expenditure for the financial year.

- Recurrent Expenditure (Revised) for Fiscal Year 2022 was **$81,841,000.** Comparing this figure with Fiscal Year 2022, there is an increase of **$20,811,000 or 20.3**%.

- The largest portion of the Elections and Boundaries Commission's allocation has fluctuated between Sub-Head 01 Personnel Expenditure and Sub-Head 02 Goods and Services. These two Sub-Heads represent **99.7**% of the Elections and Boundaries Commission total Recurrent Expenditure for the financial year 2023.

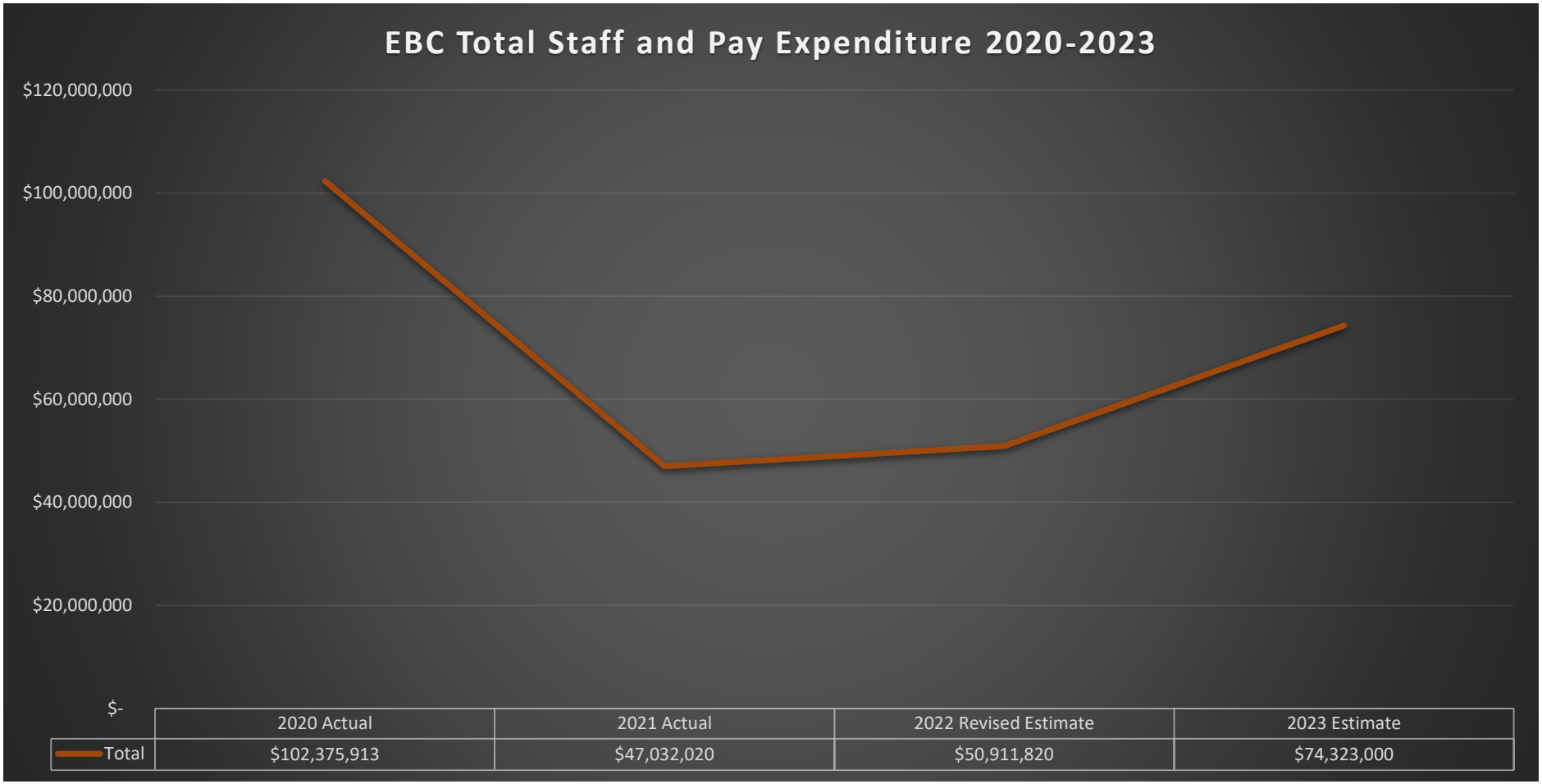
- The Allocation for Sub-Head 02 – Goods and Services has fluctuated over the period 2017 to 2023 from a low of **$33,284,966** in fiscal year 2021 to a high of **$61,439,100** in fiscal year 2023. In fiscal year 2023, there is an increase of approximately **$16,458,120 or 26.8**% in spending for Goods and Services from fiscal year 2022.

- For 2023 the Sub-Head 01 Personnel Expenditure represents **59.85**% of the Commission's total recurrent allocation. The largest allocation under this Sub-Head has consistently gone to sub-item 01 Salaries and Cost of Living Allowance.

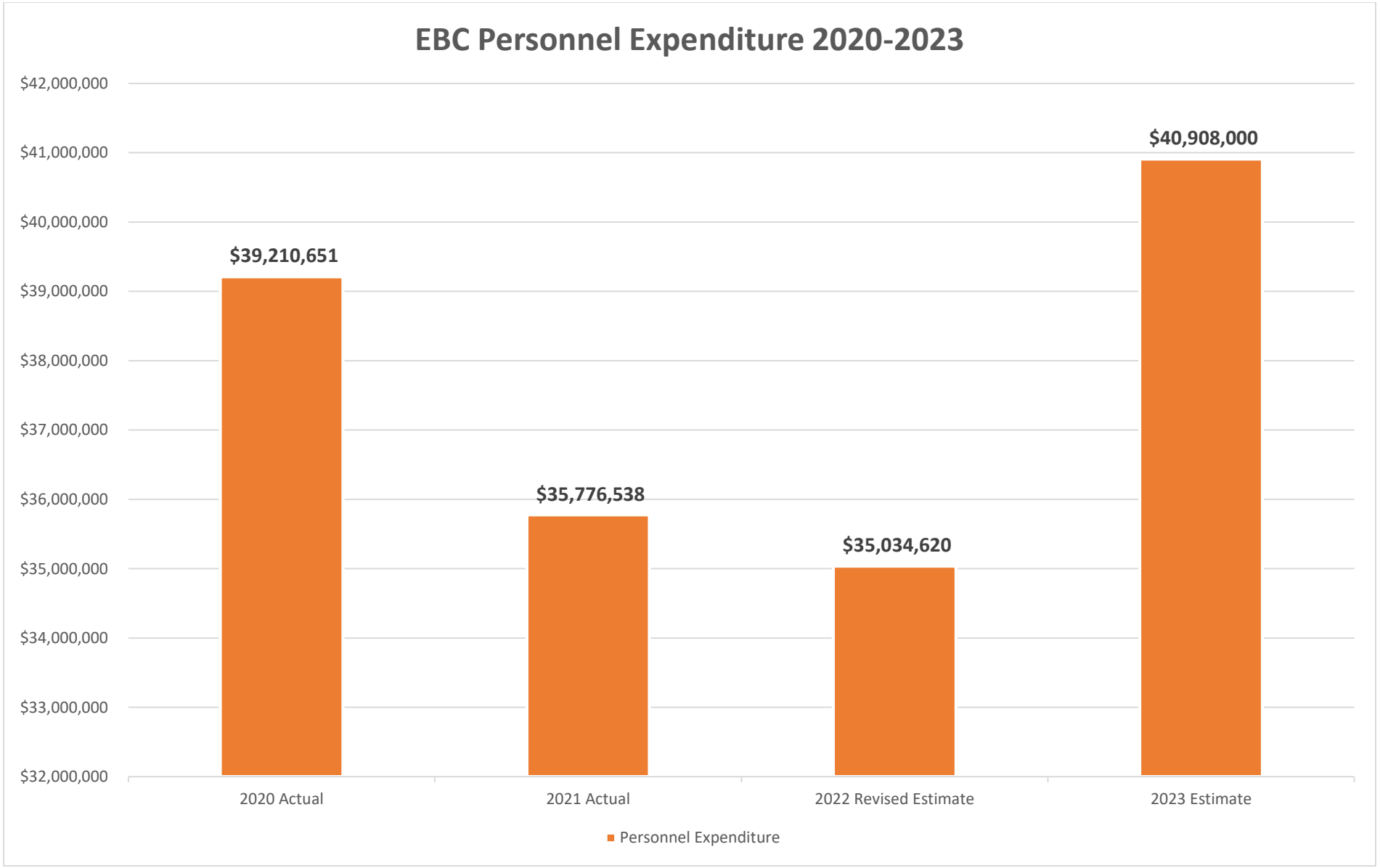
- The smallest portion of the Commission recurrent allocation has consistently been allocated to Sub-Head 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies over the period 2017 to 2023. This represents **0.1**% of the allocation for fiscal year 2023. In Comparison. Sub Head 03 Minor Equipment Purchases represents **0.19**% of the 2023 allocation to Recurrent Expenditure.

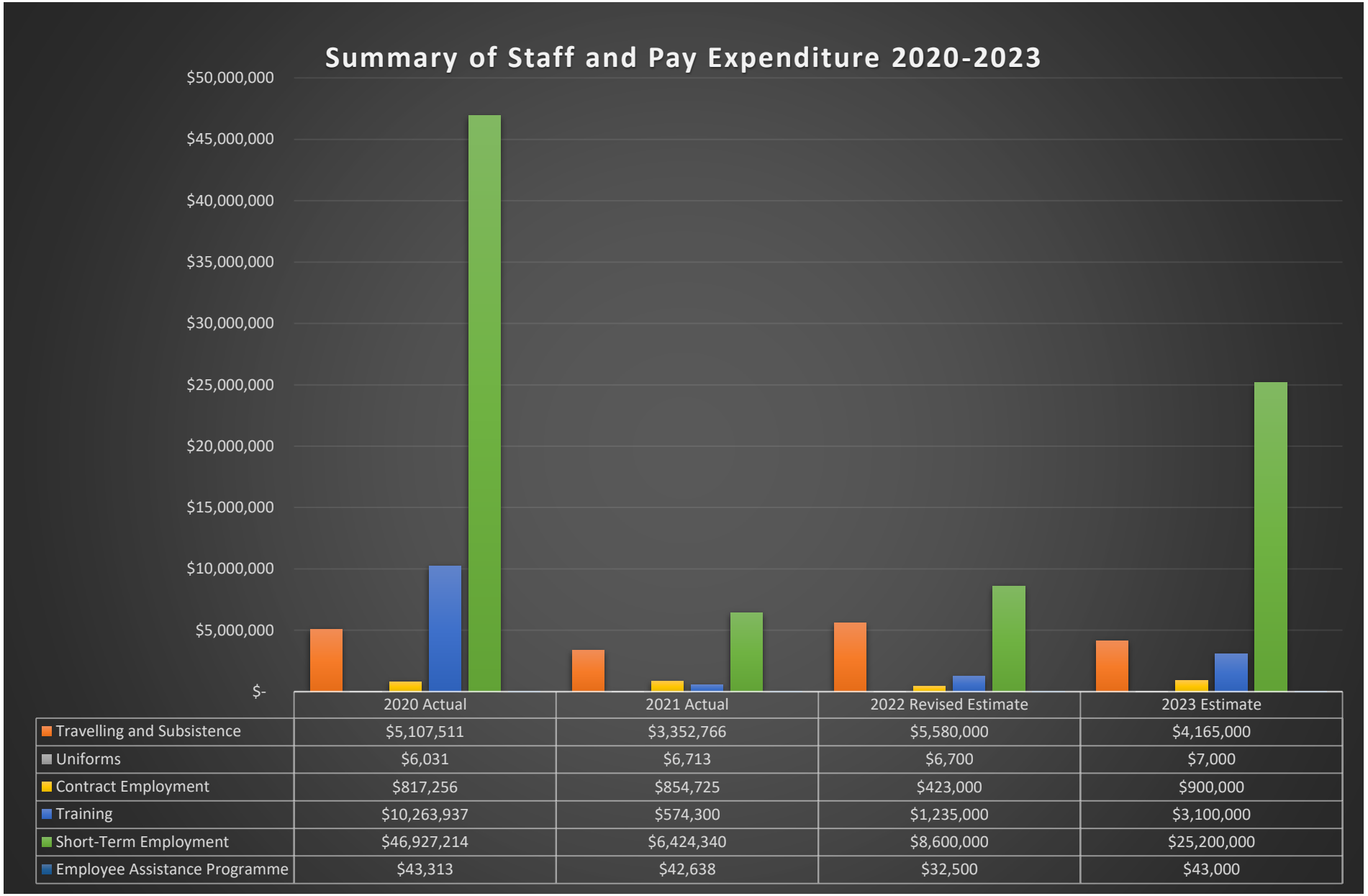
Staff and Pay[12]

The allocation of staff expenditure for the year 2023 was **$74,323,000** which represents an increase of approximately **31.5**% from fiscal year 2022. The diagrams below provide a breakdown of all expenditure related to staff from 2020-2023.



[12] Ministry of Finance website – Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2023 accessed on September 26, 2022 https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Draft-Estimates-of-Details-of-Estimates-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-for-the-Financial-Year-2023.pdf

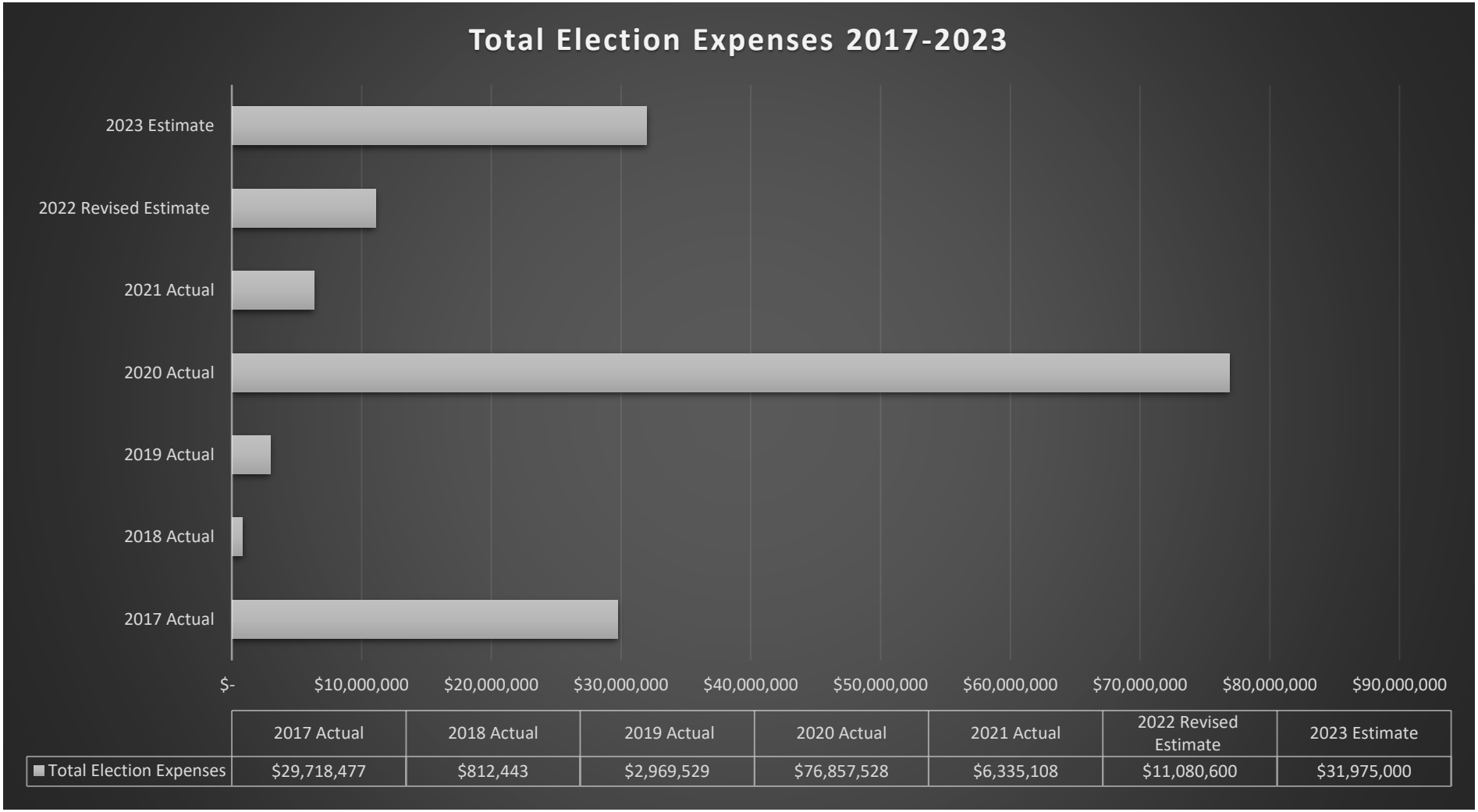

EBC Personnel Expenditure 2020-2023
$42,000,000
$41,000,000
$40,000,000
$39,000,000
$38,000,000
$37,000,000
$36,000,000
$35,000,000
$34,000,000
$33,000,000
$32,000,000
$39,210,651
$35,776,538
$35,034,620
$40,908,000
2020 Actual
2021 Actual
2022 Revised Estimate
2023 Estimate
Personnel Expenditure



	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Revised Estimate	2023 Estimate
Travelling and Subsistence	$5,107,511	$3,352,766	$5,580,000	$4,165,000
Uniforms	$6,031	$6,713	$6,700	$7,000
Contract Employment	$817,256	$854,725	$423,000	$900,000
Training	$10,263,937	$574,300	$1,235,000	$3,100,000
Short-Term Employment	$46,927,214	$6,424,340	$8,600,000	$25,200,000
Employee Assistance Programme	$43,313	$42,638	$32,500	$43,000

Expenditure Unique to the Elections and Boundaries Commission[13]

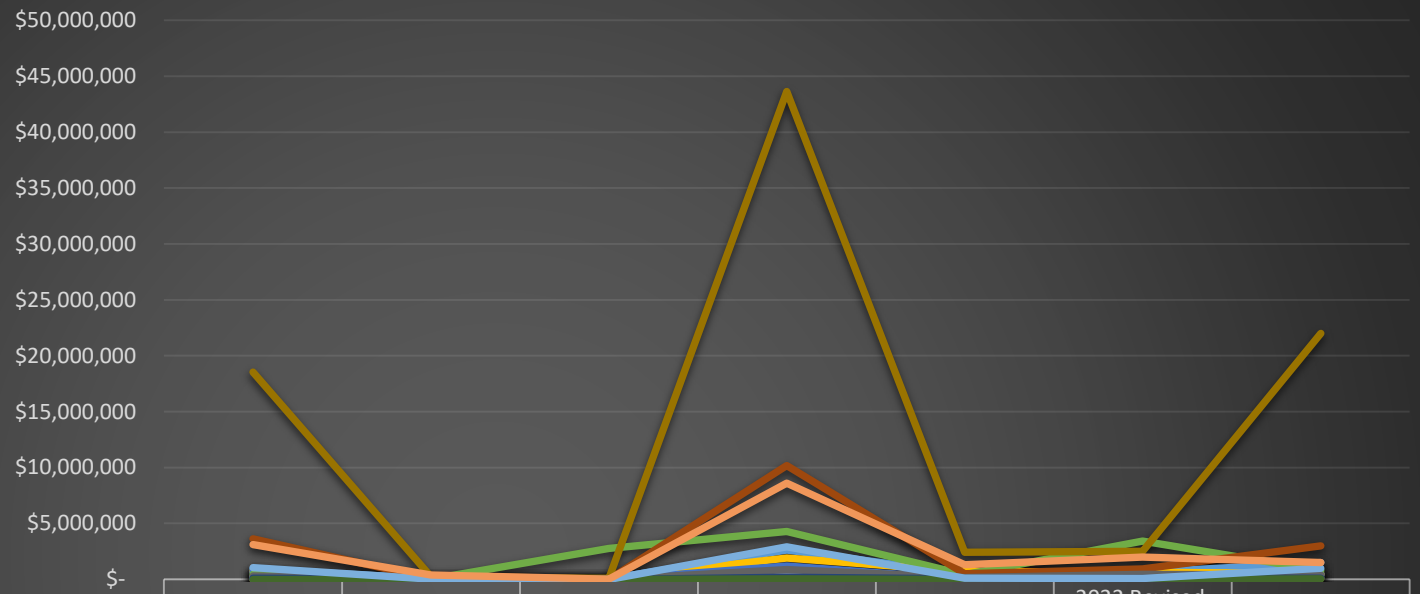
Unique Expenditure refers to expenditure items incurred by the Elections and Boundaries Commission that may not feature in other Ministries or Departments. The following graph illustrates the Summary of Election Expenses for the Period 2017–2023



	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Revised Estimate	2023 Estimate
Total Election Expenses	$29,718,477	$812,443	$2,969,529	$76,857,528	$6,335,108	$11,080,600	$31,975,000

[13] Ministry of Finance website – Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2023 accessed on September 26, 2022 https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Draft-Estimates-of-Details-of-Estimates-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-for-the-Financial-Year-2023.pdf

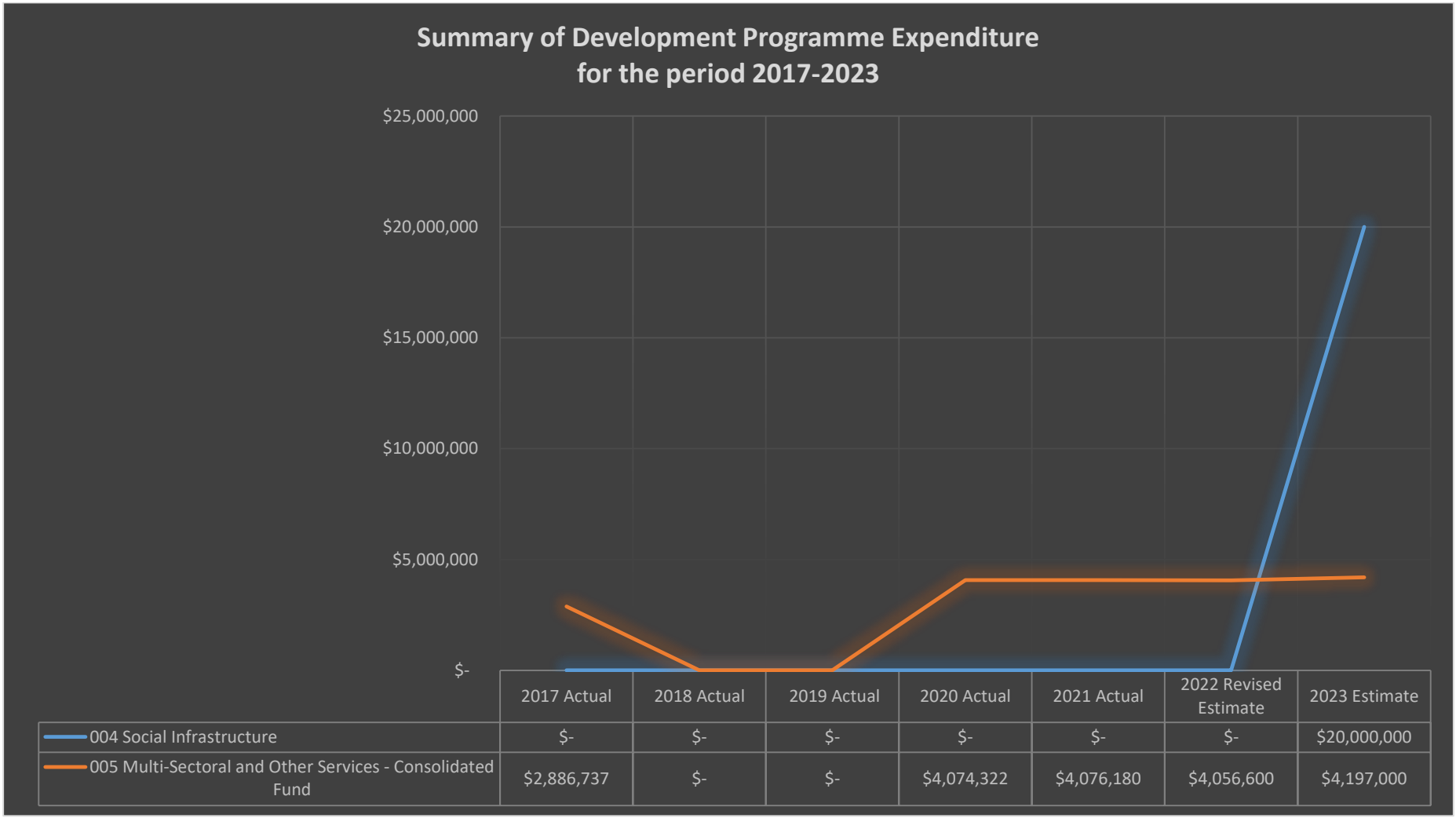
Summary of Election Expenses 2017 to 2023



	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Revised Estimate	2023 Estimate
Travelling and Subsistence	$914,600	$77,567	$42,692	$2,618,445	$497,503	$630,000	$1,500,000
Electricity	$-	$-	$-	$31,446	$73,544	$115,000	$75,000
Telephones	$259,850	$225	$-	$325,818	$61,076	$125,000	$400,000
Rental/Lease - Office Accommodation and Storage	$714,773	$2,400	$62,972	$1,896,120	$715,811	$650,000	$500,000
Rental/Lease - Vehicles and Equipment	$642,449	$-	$-	$1,179,527	$13,960	$93,800	$500,000
Materials and Supplies	$446,834	$16,395	$2,759,152	$4,283,610	$415,548	$3,432,000	$800,000
Repairs and Maintenance - Equipment	$25,020	$-	$-	$96,916	$15,587	$-	$150,000
Training	$3,629,660	$48,065	$2,250	$10,170,515	$503,570	$935,000	$3,000,000
Repairs and Maintenance - Buildings	$294,974	$-	$-	$879,845	$155,600	$450,000	$400,000
Short Term Employment	$18,531,816	$255,777	$86,248	$43,635,668	$2,434,681	$2,500,000	$22,000,000
Other Contracted Services	$102,600	$11,500	$-	$202,440	$36,700	$74,800	$105,000
Security Services	$-	$-	$-	$32,760	$-	$-	$45,000
Postage	$1,047,839	$16,738	$-	$2,910,669	$112,962	$75,000	$1,000,000
Promotions, Publicity and Printing	$3,108,062	$383,776	$16,215	$8,593,749	$1,298,566	$2,000,000	$1,500,000

Summary of Development Programme Expenditure for the period 2016-2023[14]

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 EBC receives Development Programme funding solely form the Consolidated Fund.



	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Revised Estimate	2023 Estimate
004 Social Infrastructure	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-	$-	$20,000,000
005 Multi-Sectoral and Other Services - Consolidated Fund	$2,886,737	$-	$-	$4,074,322	$4,076,180	$4,056,600	$4,197,000

[14] Ministry of Finance website – Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2023 accessed on September 26, 2022 https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-for-the-Financial-Year-2023.pdf

Major Programmes and Developments[15]

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

Sub-head /Item /Sub-item /Group /Project Desc.	Programme/Project	2021 Actual	2022 Estimate	2022 Revised Estimate	2023 Estimate
CF005-06J-001	National Field Verification Exercise	0	0	0	$20,000,000
CF005-06A-005	Upgrading of the Electronic Voter Registration and Election Management System	$4,076,180	$4,198,000	$4,056,600	$4,197,000

[15] Ministry of Finance website – Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2023 accessed on September 26, 2022 https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-for-the-Financial-Year-2023.pdf

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