



# Head 05: Office of the Parliament

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

2017-2018

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## About this Guide

This guide provides a summary of expenditure for the Office of the Parliament for the period 2012-2018. 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 2016.

# Head 05: Parliament

## Department's Overview

### **Mission**

As the national Legislature of Trinidad & 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.<sup>3</sup>

### **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.<sup>1</sup>

**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

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).<sup>2</sup> Trinidad and Tobago follows the Westminster System of government, in that

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<sup>1</sup> Strategic Plan of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, Accessed on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016: <http://www.ttparliament.org/documents/2218.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Power to make laws, section 53 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago: <http://rgd.legalaffairs.gov.tt/Laws2/Constitution.pdf>

Members of the Executive are also Members of Parliament and thus attend sittings of the Legislature.<sup>3</sup> The Parliament consists of the President, the Senate and the House of Representatives.<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup>

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.

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<sup>3</sup> Office of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, accessed on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016: <http://www.ttparliament.org/about.php?mid=5>

<sup>4</sup> Establishment of the Parliament, section 39 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago: <http://rgd.legalaffairs.gov.tt/Laws2/Constitution.pdf>

<sup>5</sup>Office of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago website, Accessed on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016: <http://www.ttparliament.org/about.php?mid=50>

# Where the Office of the Parliament spends its money

## *2017-2018 Estimates of Expenditure*

The budget allocation of **\$132,943,000.00** for the Office of the Parliament is comprised of:

- The Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure in the sum of **\$125,943,000.00**; and
- The Draft Estimates of Development Programme - Consolidated Fund in the sum of **\$7,000,000.00**

The Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure include:

- 01 Personnel Expenditure - **\$28,431,000.00**;
- 02 Goods and Services - **\$96,698,500.00**;
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases **\$260,000**; and
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies **\$553,500.00**.

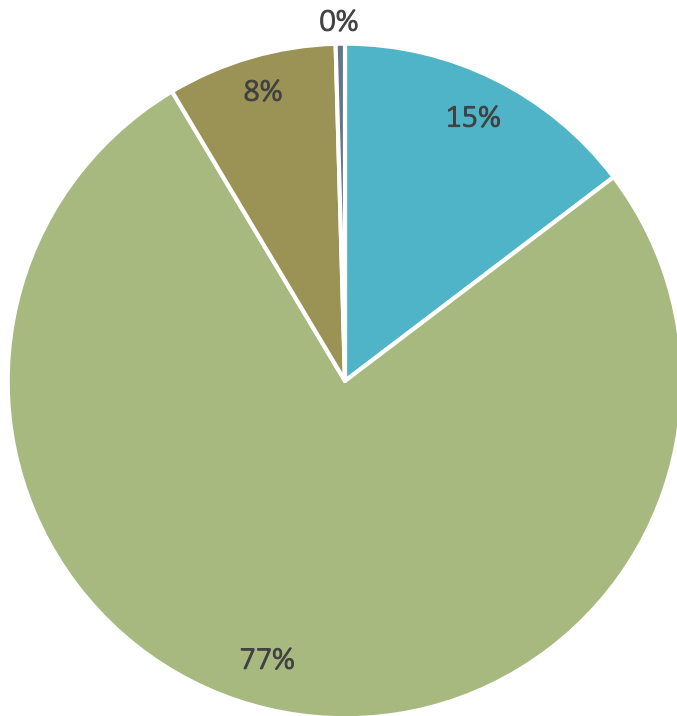
The Office of the Parliament's:

- Recurrent Expenditure as a percentage of the total Recurrent Expenditure budget is **0.2%**; and
- Consolidation Fund allocation as a percentage of the total Consolidated Fund allocation is **0.3%**.

# Summary of Recurrent Expenditure for the period 2012-2018

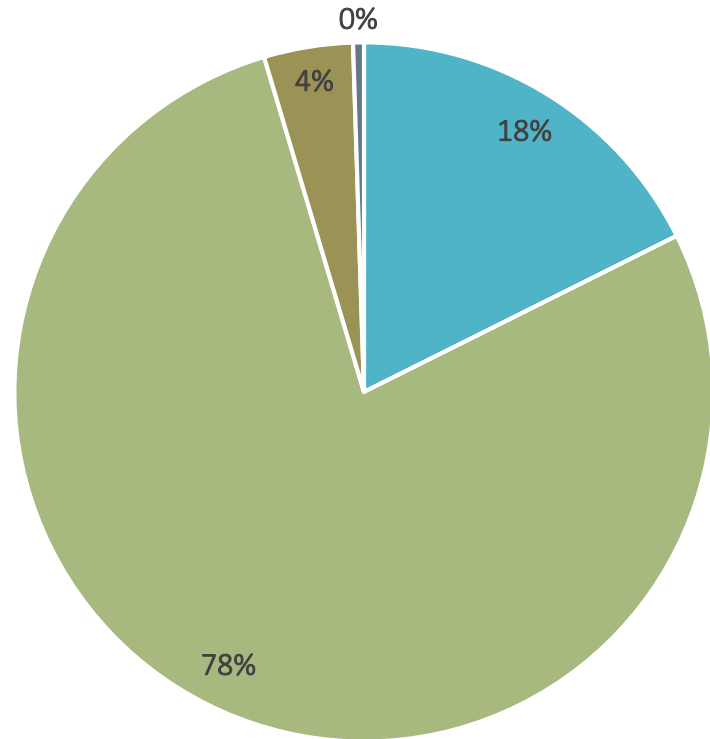


2012 Actual



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

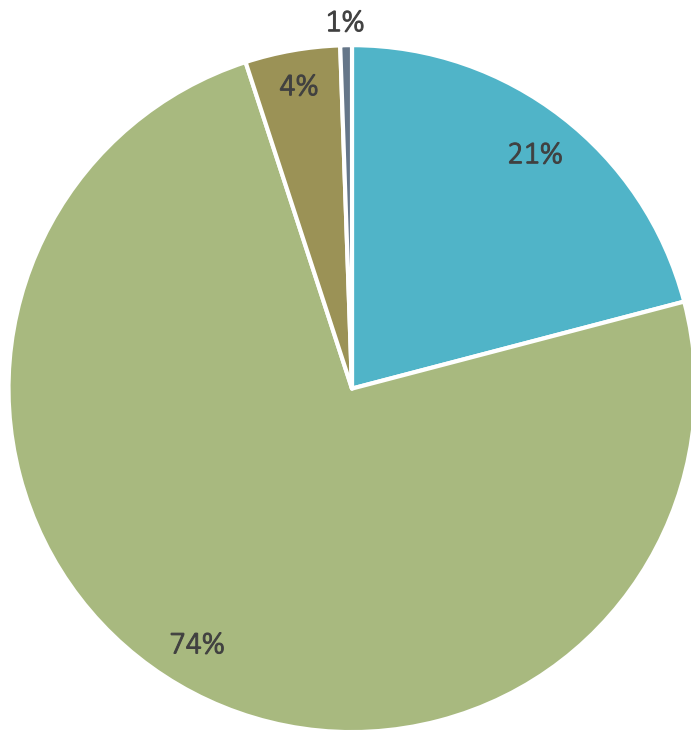
2013 Actual



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

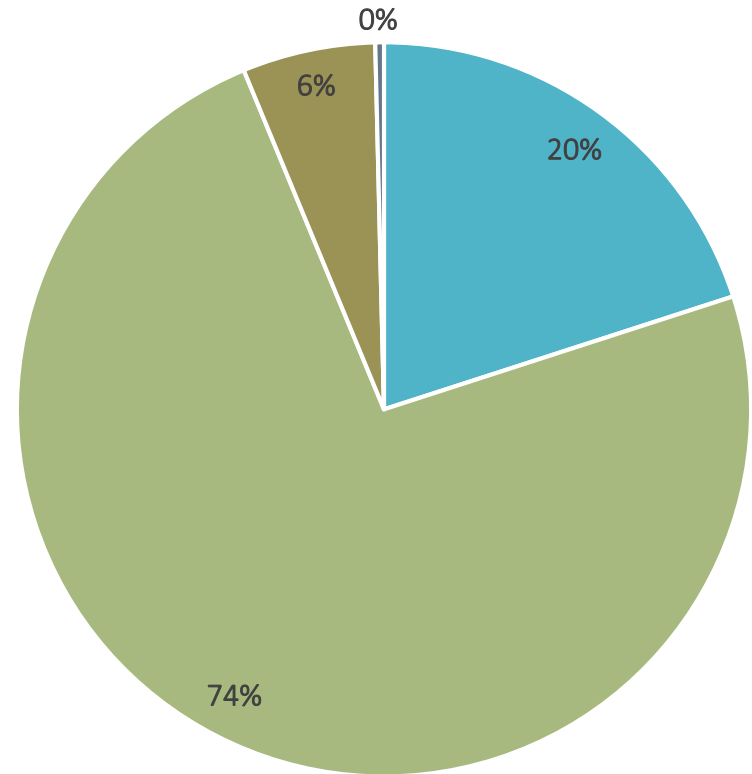


2014 Actual



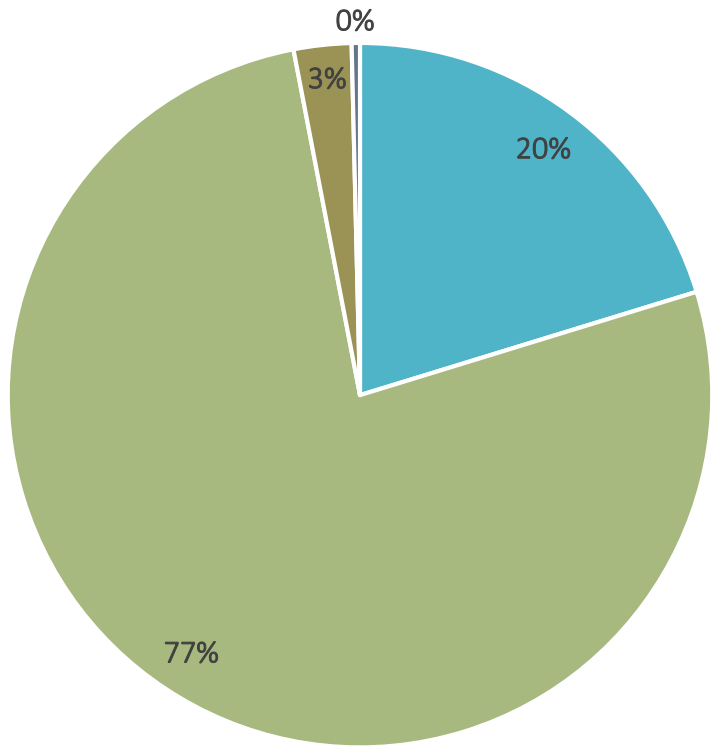
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies

2015 Actual



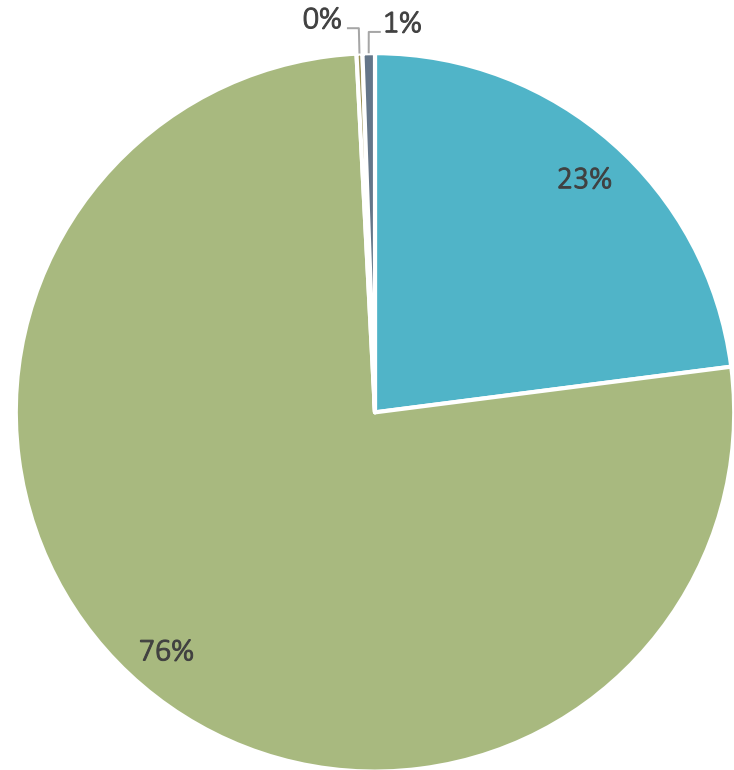
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies

2016 Actual



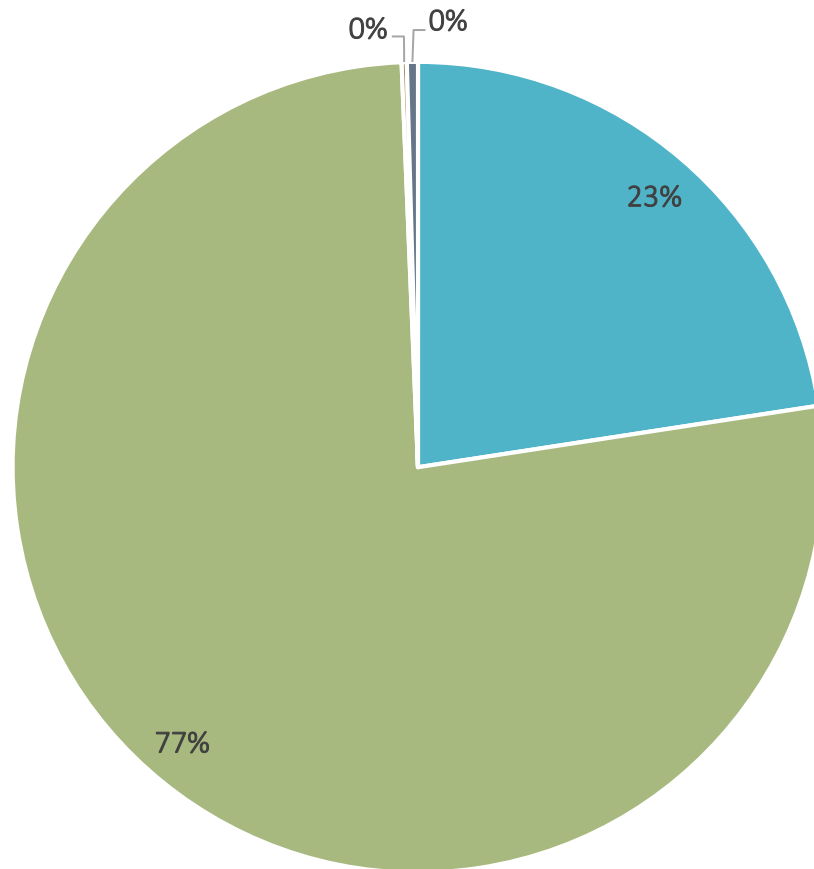
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies

2017 Revised Estimates



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

## 2018 Estimates



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

## Staff and Pay<sup>6</sup>

The estimated allocation to staff expenditure for the fiscal year 2018 is **\$60,769,000.00** which represents an increase of approximately **1.4%** from the last fiscal year 2017. The following chart provides a breakdown of all expenditure related to staff from 2016-2018.



<sup>6</sup> Direct charges to the consolidated funds are 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.

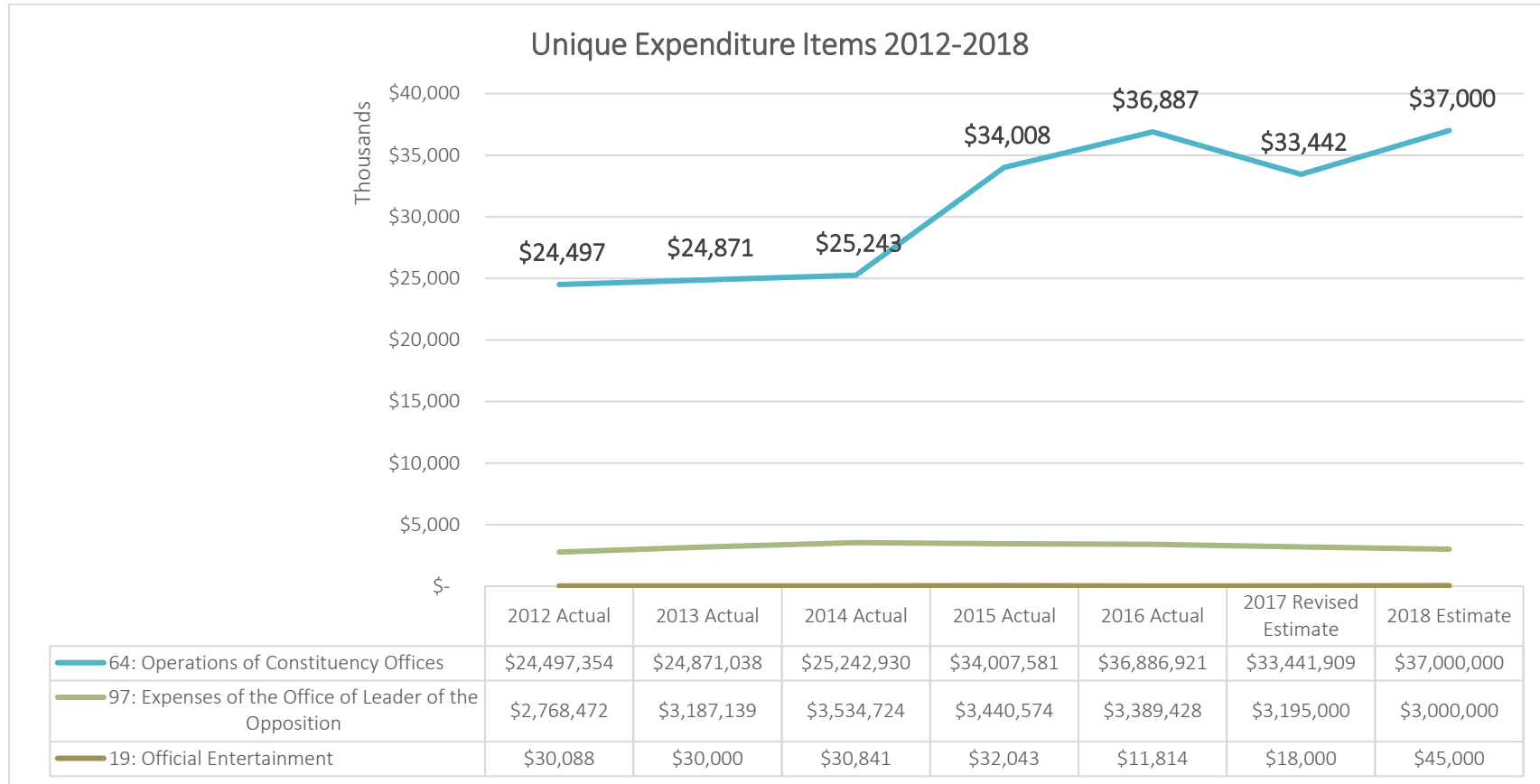
# Analysis of Summary of Expenditure

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 **2017/2018** is estimated at **\$125,943,000.00**. This represents **0.23%** of the total Recurrent Expenditure for the financial year **2017/2018**.
- **Recurrent Expenditure** for Fiscal Year **2016/2017** was **\$120,943,345.00** (revised). Comparing this figure with Fiscal Year **2017/2018**, there is a slight increase of **4.1%**
- The largest portion of the Office of the Parliament's allocation has consistently gone to sub head **02 - Goods and Services** which has risen slightly over the period 2012 to 2017 from **74%** to about **77%**.
- The 2018 estimate of **Personnel Expenditure** represents **23.6%** of the Parliament's total recurrent allocation.
- The smallest portion of the allocation has consistently been allocated to **Current Transfers and Subsidies**. The estimate for 2018 is negligible.
- **Minor Equipment Purchases** has had a consistent downward trend, falling from about **8%** in 2012 to **0%** in the estimate for 2018.
- 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, which has shifted between **0.2% - 0.3%**.

# 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.



\*Official Entertainment – Provision of official entertainment for holders of certain Public Offices within the purview of the Salaries Review Commission. These include:

- Auditor General
- Top managers in the Public Service
- Senior Officers in the Protective Services and Defence Force
- Chairman and Members of Commissions and Boards
- The Judicial and Legal Service<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2018, accessed on October 3, 2017

## 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.

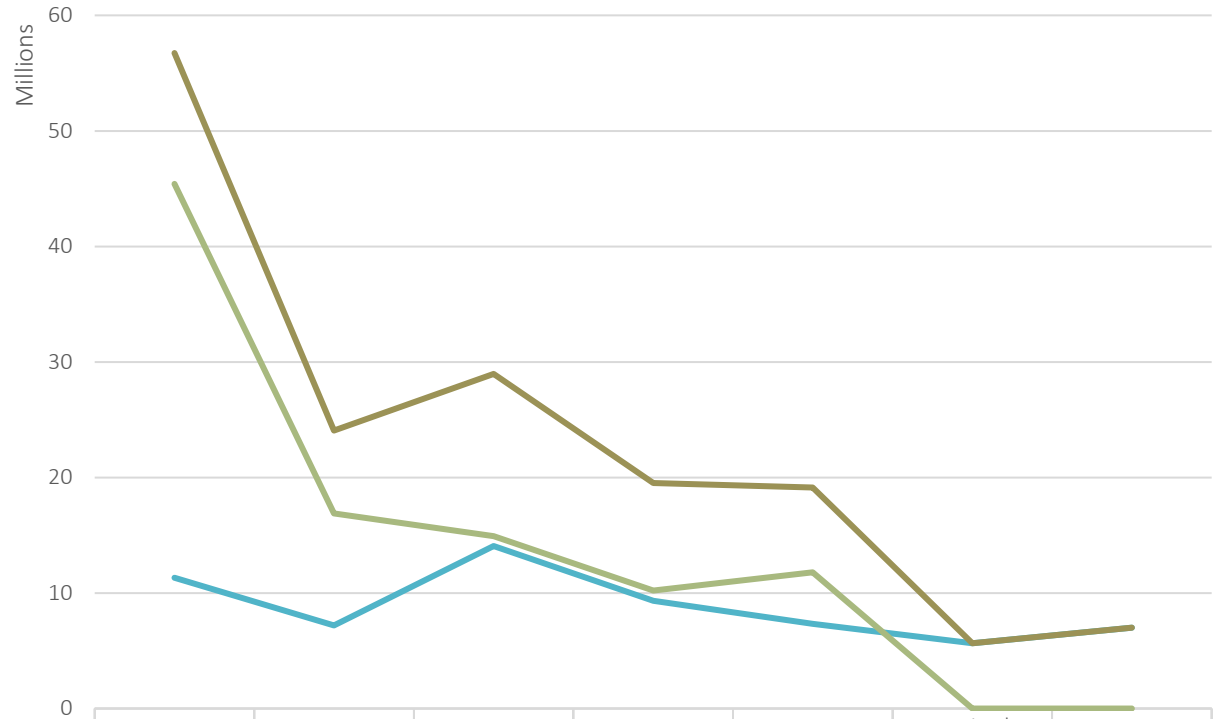
The PSIP budget document provides a detailed description of the programmes and projects and includes a review of the implementation of projects and programmes in the previous financial year and highlights the major projects and programmes to be implemented in the upcoming financial year.

- 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	11,325,991	7,179,760	14,065,719	9,311,711	7,327,853	5,650,000	7,000,000
005 Multi-Sectoral and Other Services - Infrastructure Development Fund	45,411,452	16,891,944	14,911,042	10,198,869	11,795,667	0	0
Total	56,737,443	24,071,704	28,976,761	19,510,580	19,123,520	5,650,000	7,000,000



# The Office of the Parliament's total allocation as a percentage of the National Budget for the period 2012 to 2018.

Year <sup>8</sup>	Total Allocation <sup>9</sup>	National Budget <sup>10</sup>	Percentage of National Budget
2012	\$ 173,923,396.00	\$ 55,718,271,573.00	0.3%
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	0.3%
2017	\$126,593,345.00	\$ 55,598,436,912.00	0.2%
2018	\$132,943,000.00	\$ 54,955,041,591.00	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, which has shifted between 0.2% - 0.3%.

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> Total Allocation for the Office of the Parliament Recurrent Expenditure + Consolidated Fund Expenditure

<sup>10</sup> The National Budget = Total Recurrent Expenditure + Development Programme Expenditure: Consolidated Fund

# Committee Reports Related to the Office of the Parliament

## THIRD REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE

<b>Inquiry Topic</b>	<b>Report Status</b>	<b>Ministerial Response</b>	<b>Report Recommendations</b>
<b>Examination of the System of Inventory Control within the Public Service</b>	Laid in HOR 05.05.2017	Laid in HOR 30.06.2017	The Office of the Parliament should seek to reduce its expenditure for the replacement of equipment.

# 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/>