

Head 37: Integrity Commission

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

Head 37: Integrity Commission

Department's Overview

The Integrity Commission is established by the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago. It is an independent body comprising five (5) members appointed by the President in accordance with Section 4 of the Integrity in Public Life Act, 2000. The Commission seeks to promote integrity, particularly among “persons in public life” - from the level of Ministers of Government and Members of Parliament to Permanent Secretaries, Chief Technical Officers and members of the Boards of Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises. The Commission is required to regulate the conduct of “persons exercising public functions” through the receipt of declarations of income, assets and liabilities, and by monitoring compliance with the Code of Conduct presented in Part IV of the Integrity in Public Life Act, 2000. The Commission is responsible for examining the practices and procedures of public bodies in order to facilitate the discovery of corrupt practices. The core functions of the Integrity Commission are to prevent instances of fraud and misuse in the public sector, investigate and receive complaints of possible violations happening within the public sector, as well as provide education to the general public to enable the understanding of the Standards of Integrity and to enlist the public's support. Among these functions is the authority to enforce and impose sanctions against persons who fail to comply with the requirements of the Integrity in Public Life Act 2000. The Integrity Commission seeks to ensure that those who serve the nation do so with integrity, dignity and respect so that public resources are used fairly and for the benefit of all people of the nation.¹

¹ Fact Sheet of the Integrity Commission, Accessed on September 26, 2017: http://www.integritycommission.org.tt/documents/FactSheet-IntegrityCommissionofTrinidadandTobago2_000.pdf

Vision

The Integrity Commission of Trinidad and Tobago is the leading organisation to promote Integrity and make Trinidad and Tobago corruption free.²

Mission

The Integrity Commission shall be a performance driven institution that promotes the highest standards by:

- Ensuring compliance with the Integrity in Public Life Act;
- Detecting corrupt practices and dishonest conduct; and
- Providing excellent customer service and public education, for the benefit of our nation.³

Chairman, Integrity Commission: Mr. Justice Zainool Hosein

Deputy Chairman, Integrity Commission: Mr. Rajiv Persad

Registrar (Ag.), Integrity Commission: Ms. Jasmine Pascal

² Integrity Commission website, Accessed on September 26, 2017: <http://integritycommission.org.tt/New/Vision.html>

³ Integrity Commission Mission Statement, Accessed on September 26, 2017: <http://integritycommission.org.tt/New/Mission.html>

Key Statement from 2016 Standing Finance Committee Debate

During the reading of the Appropriation (Financial Year 2017) Bill, 2016, the following statements were made in relation to the emphases of the Integrity Commission for fiscal year 2016/2017⁴:

“The Integrity Commission is a constitutional body created by sections 138 and 139 of the Constitution and established by the Integrity in Public Life Act. The main aim of the Commission is the prevention of corruption of persons in public life by providing for public disclosure, regulating the conduct of persons exercising public functions and preserving and promoting the integrity of public officials and institutions.

The Act empowers the Commission to have an oversight and monitoring role of the integrity of public officials who are grouped into two categories defined as persons in public life and persons exercising public functions. The Commission also regulates the conduct of persons exercising public functions who are subject to a code of conduct in the Act similar to persons in public life.

In order to carry out its functions, the Commission is organized into the following areas: compliance, investigations, public education and communications and its administrative division, and most importantly, the Integrity Commission must exercise its powers and performance of its functions required by the Act independent of any other person or institution.”

⁴ Minister of Finance, Standing Finance Committee 2016, Hansard: Appropriation (Financial Year 2017) Bill, 2016 Hansard 18 Oct 2016

Where the Department spends its money

2017-2018 Estimates of Expenditure

The budget allocation of for the Integrity Commission is comprised of:

- The Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure in the sum of **\$12,000,000.00**; and
- The Draft Estimates of Development Programme – Consolidated Fund in the sum of **\$500,000.00**.

The Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure include:

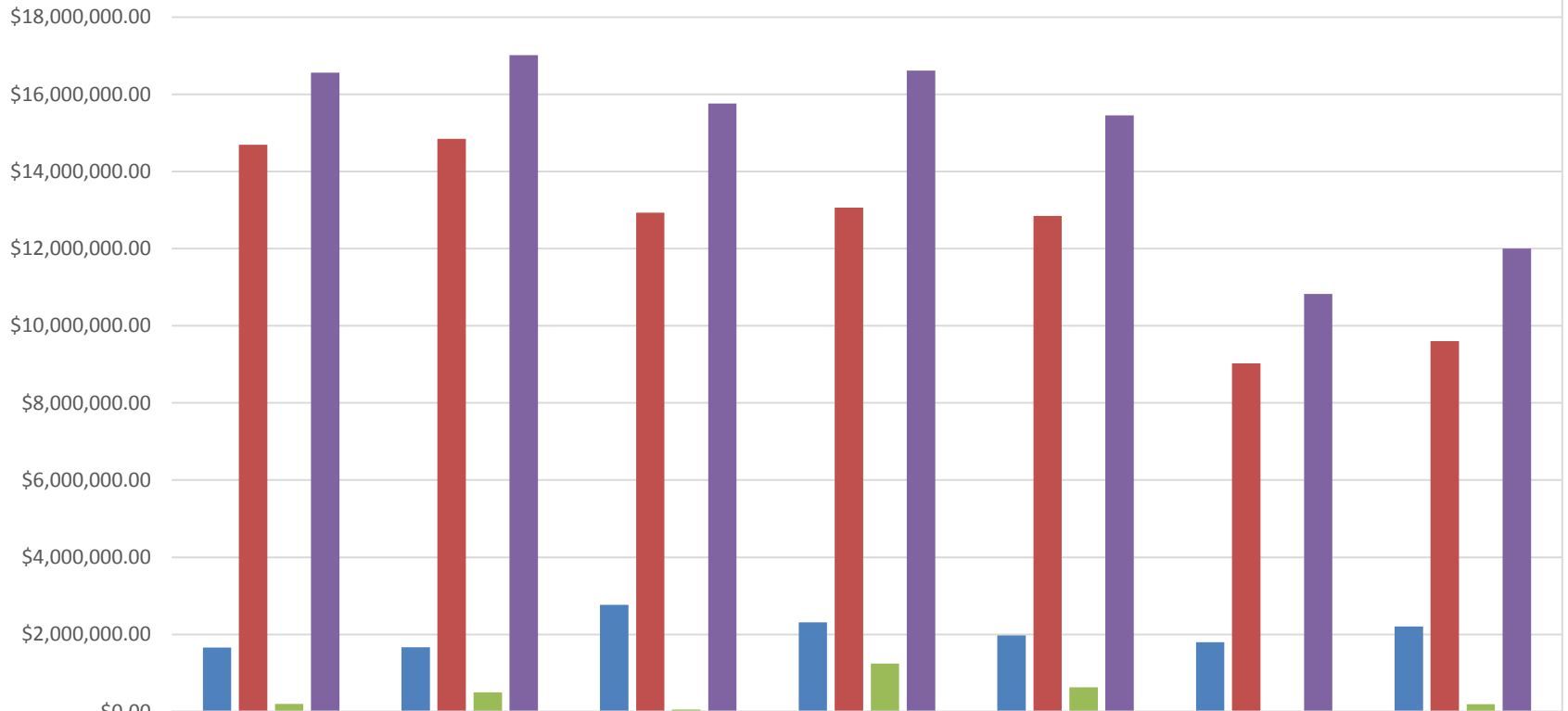
- 01 Personnel Expenditure - **\$2,208,200.00**;
- 02 Goods and Services – **\$9,601,800.00**; and
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases – **\$190,000**.

The Integrity Commission's:

- Recurrent Expenditure as a percentage of the total Recurrent Expenditure is **0.02%**; and
- Consolidated Fund as percentage of the total Consolidated Fund is **0.02%**.

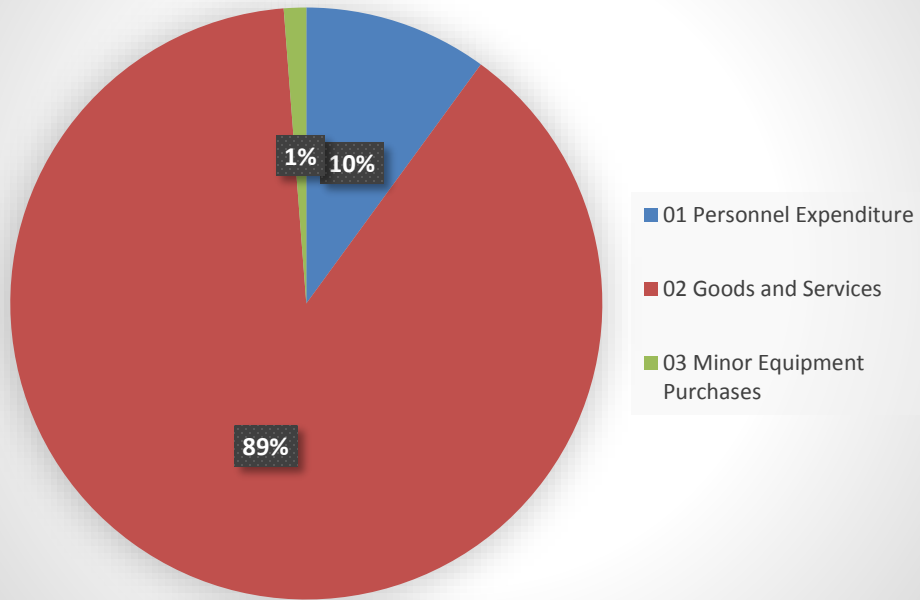
Summary of Recurrent Expenditure for the period 2012-2018

Integrity Commission Summary of Expenditure for the period 2012- 2018

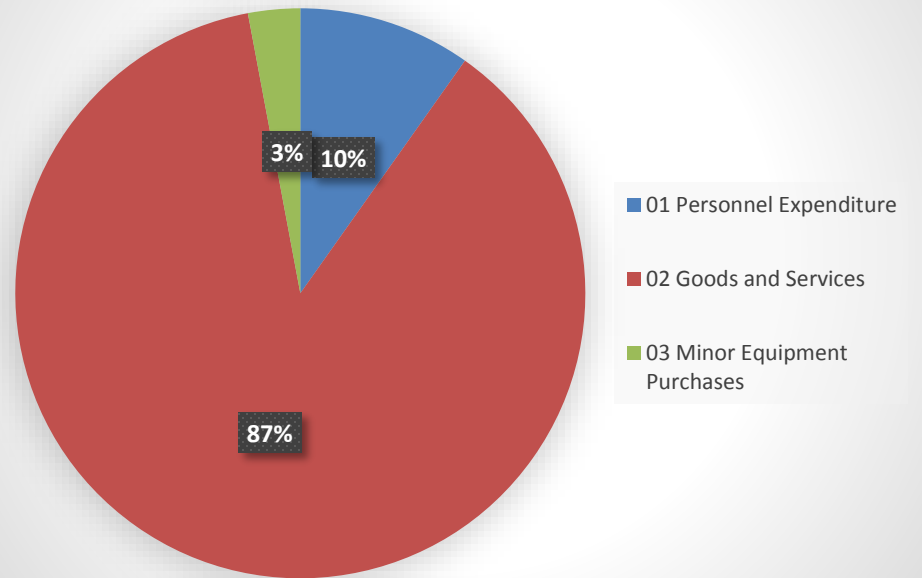


	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Revised Estimates	2018 Estimates
01 Personnel Expenditure	\$1,661,735.00	\$1,668,148.00	\$2,767,564.00	\$2,315,327.00	\$1,977,121.00	\$1,800,700.00	\$2,208,200.00
02 Goods and Services	\$14,692,530.00	\$14,846,879.00	\$12,933,811.00	\$13,058,173.00	\$12,843,137.00	\$9,025,035.00	\$9,601,800.00
03 Minor Equipment Purchases	\$202,068.00	\$501,598.00	\$55,225.00	\$1,242,942.00	\$632,815.00	\$1,100.00	\$190,000.00
Total	\$16,556,333.00	\$17,016,625.00	\$15,756,600.00	\$16,616,442.00	\$15,453,073.00	\$10,826,835.00	\$12,000,000.00

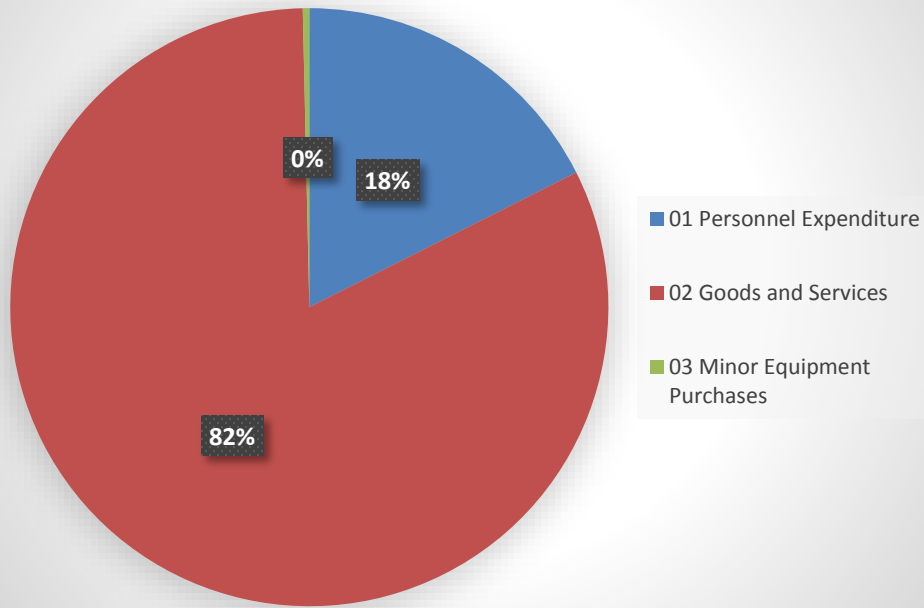
2012 Actual



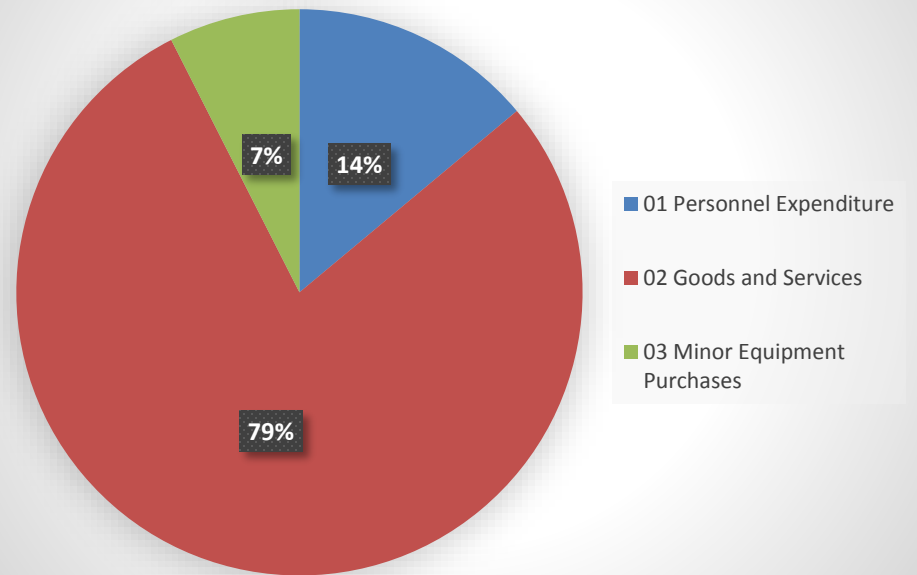
2013 Actual



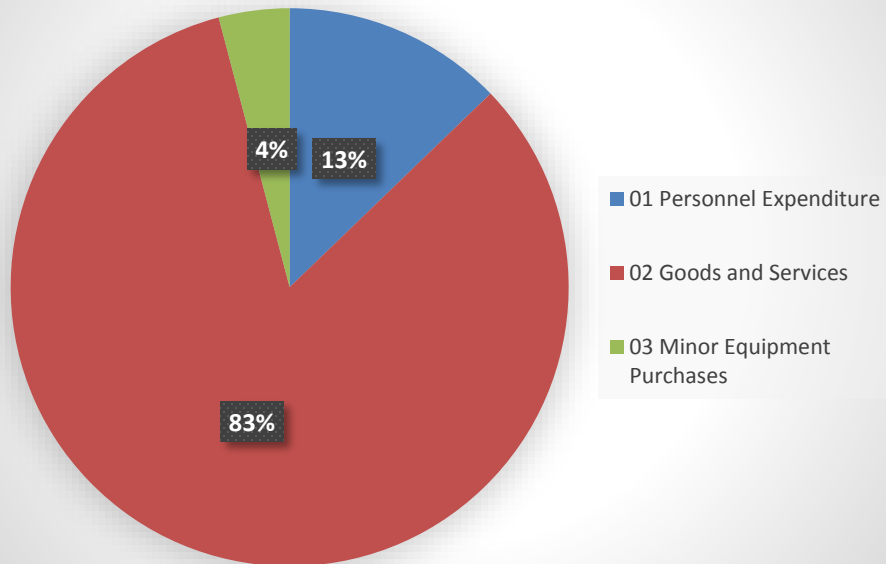
2014 Actual



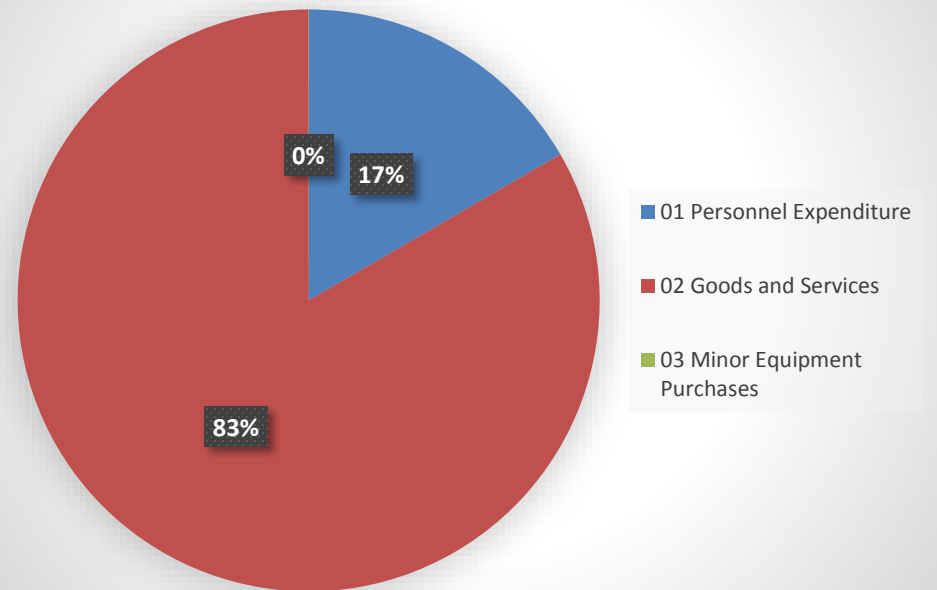
2015 Actual



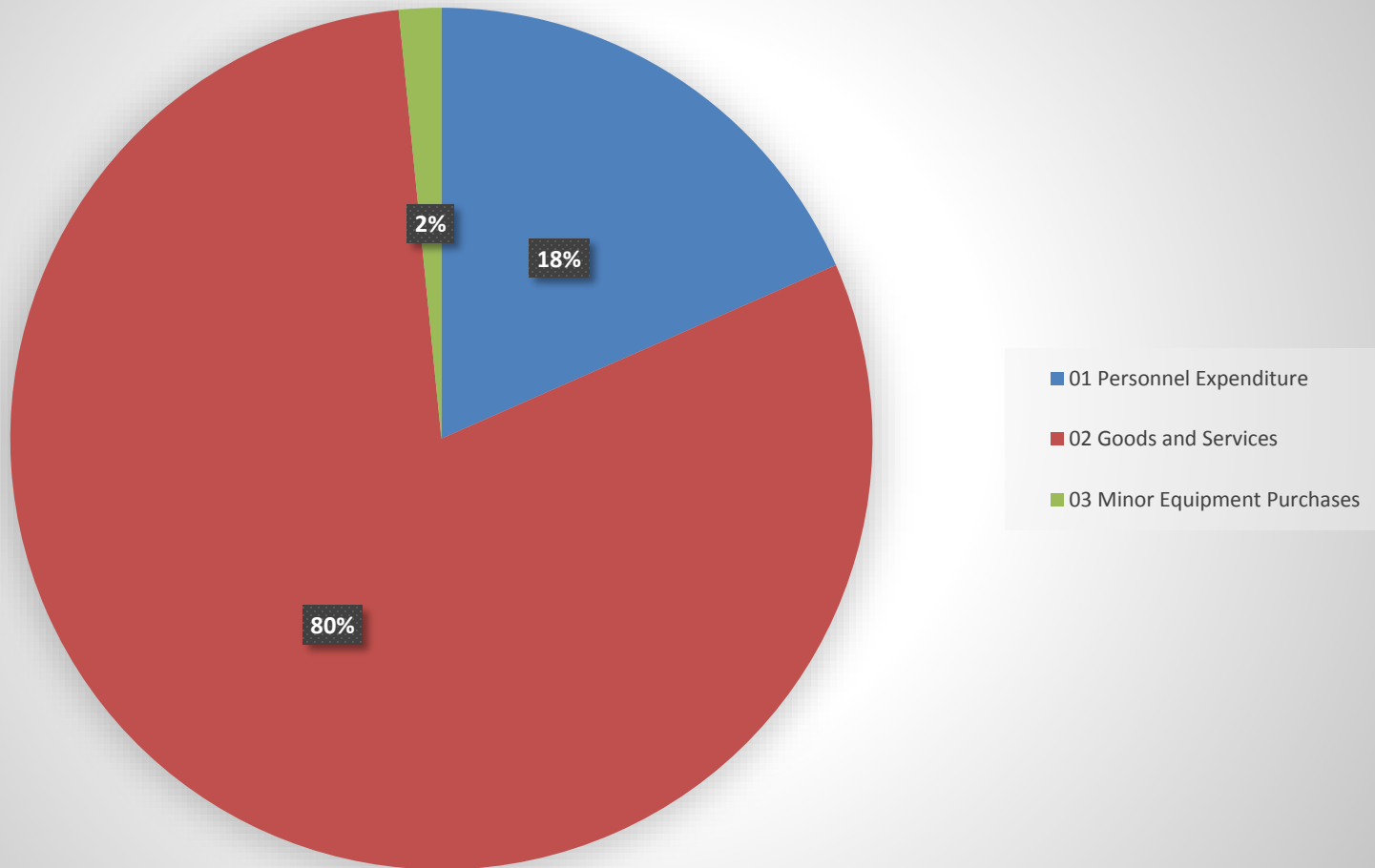
2016 Actual



2017 Revised Estimates

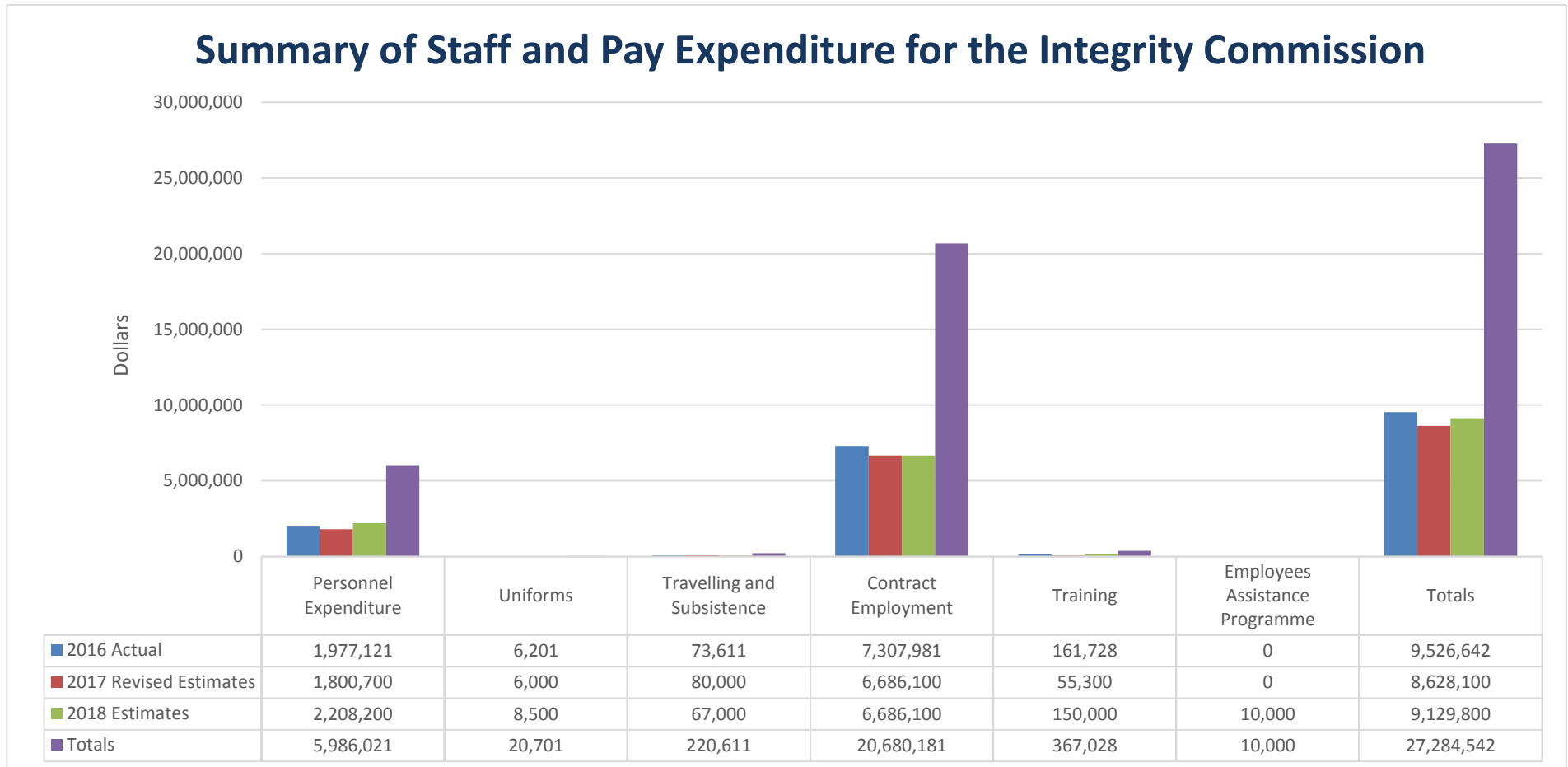


2018 Estimates



Staff and Pay⁵

The allocation of staff expenditure for the year 2018 is **\$9,129,800.00** which is an increase of approximately **5.8%** from the last fiscal year 2017. The diagram below provides a breakdown of all staff related expenditure from 2016 to 2018.



⁵ 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>

Analysis and Summary of Expenditure

Recurrent Expenditure refers to the payments for expenses which are incurred during the day-to-day operations of the Integrity Commission for Personnel Expenditure, Goods and Services and Minor Equipment Purchases.

- ✦ Recurrent Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2017/2018 is **\$12,000,000.00**. This represents **0.02%** of the total Recurrent Expenditure for the financial year 2017/2018.
- ✦ Recurrent Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2016/2017 was **\$10,826,835.00 (Revised)**. Comparing this figure with Fiscal Year 2017/2018, there is an increase of **10.8%**.
- ✦ The largest portion of the Integrity Commission's allocation has consistently gone to Sub-Head 02 – Goods and Services which has been steady over the period 2012 to 2018 at approximately **83%** of the total recurrent allocation for the Integrity Commission. In the 2018 fiscal year, there is a decrease of approximately **3%** in spending for **Goods and Services** from fiscal 2017.
- ✦ In 2018 the Personnel Expenditure is **18%** of the Commission'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 at an average of **2%**.
- ✦ Total allocation for the Commission relative to national budget remained constant between the period 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 at **0.02%**.
- ✦ The actual/estimated expenditure for the three (3) Sub-Heads has been fluctuating over the seven (7) year period, from a low of **\$10,826,835.00** in 2017 to a high of **\$17,016,625.00** in 2013.

Summary of Development Programme Expenditure for the period 2015-2018

Development Programme is a capital expenditure programme aimed at improving and enhancing development in different areas of Trinidad and Tobago which includes areas such as 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.

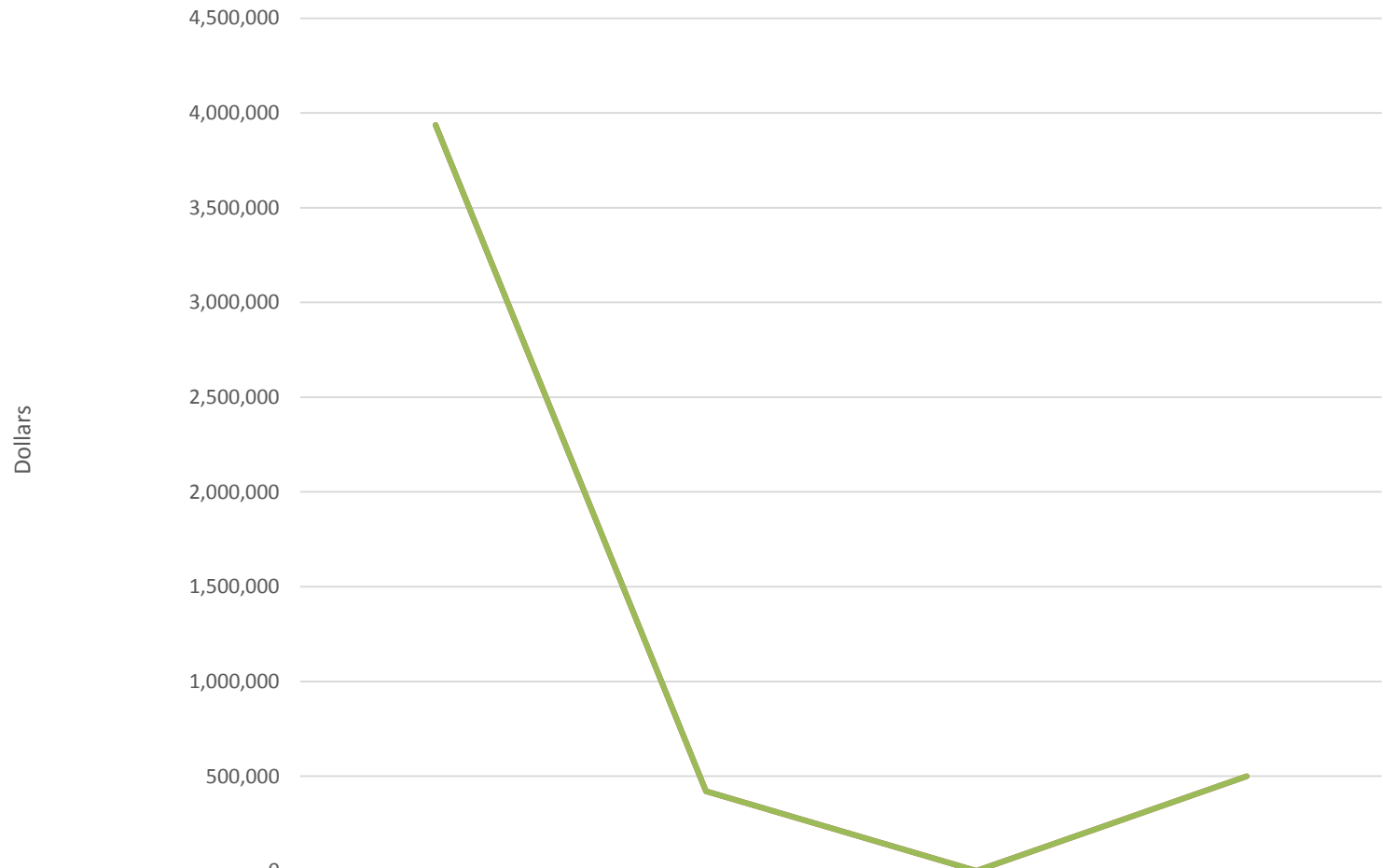
The Public Sector Investment Programme is intended:

- to achieve the country's social and economic development goals; and
- to 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 2015-2018



	Actual 2015	Actual 2016	Revised Estimates 2017	Estimates 2018
005 Multi-Sectoral and Other Services - Consolidated Fund	3,936,522	420,667	0	500,000
Total	3,936,522	420,667	0	500,000

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

Year ⁶	Total Allocation ⁷	National Budget ⁸	Percentage of National Budget
2012	\$16,556,333	\$55,718,271,573.00	0.03%
2013	\$17,016,625	\$59,174,226,196.00	0.03%
2014	\$15,756,600	\$65,020,886,424.00	0.02%
2015	\$16,616,442	\$61,966,922,675.00	0.03%
2016	\$15,873,740	\$56,573,913,053.00	0.03%
2017	\$10,826,835	\$55,598,436,912.00	0.02%
2018	\$12,500,000	\$54,955,041,591.00	0.02%

- Total allocation for the Commission as a percentage of the National Budget remained constant at **0.02%** between the period 2016/2017 and 2017/2018.

⁶ 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.

⁷ Total Allocation for the Integrity Commission = Recurrent Expenditure + Consolidated Fund Expenditure.

⁸ The National Budget = Total Recurrent Expenditure + Total Development Programme-Consolidated Fund.

Auditor General Report Finding for the Fiscal Year 2016

Ref: Auditor General's Report pg.38⁹

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Expenditure Control

Eighteen vouchers totalling \$507,286.27 were not signed by the certifying officer in contravention of Financial Regulation 78 (1-2) which states: "(1) Certifying officers shall exercise the greatest care to ensure that the certificates they sign are in accordance with the facts. (2) If such officers are not personally acquainted with the facts, the voucher shall be suitably endorsed by the senior officer who is so acquainted."

There were seven instances where the Fleet Card was used for refuelling after it was logged-in, in the Fleet Card Assignment Register. This is in contravention of the guidelines set out in the Ministry of Finance Circular No. 1 dated 4th March, 2015 for the use, recording, monitoring and control of the card.

⁹ Auditor General website, Accessed on September 29, 2017:

http://138.128.179.50/sites/default/files/Auditor%20General%27s%20Report%20on%20the%20Public%20Accounts%202016_0.pdf

Committee Reports Related to the Integrity Commission

FIRST REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

An Inquiry into the Current Expenditure of Ministries and Departments under three (3) Sub-Heads: Current Transfers and Subsidies, Development Programme – Consolidated Fund and Infrastructure Development Fund.

Recommendation No.	Report Recommendations	Ministerial Responses	Area requiring funding or follow-up
1	<p>The Accounting Officer of the Integrity Commission must ensure that there is in-house capacity to monitor expenditure controls and ensure accountability and transparency.</p>	<p><i>Internal auditors should be adequately qualified and/or trained to conduct audits based on the various types of risk to which the various organizations may be exposed and this risk analysis must guide the prioritization and execution of audits in an objective manner with a high level of independence and impartiality.</i></p> <p><i>This would mean conducting a manpower audit of all units to ensure that they are adequately staffed and possibly the setting up of Audit Committees in all the organizations. This is to ensure that the</i></p> <p><i>Audit Units are promoting effective internal controls at costs that are reasonable and that these units add value to their organizations by submitting timely, workable recommendations to Accounting Officers. Additionally, line managers will be called to account for areas under their jurisdiction that are not compliant. The Committee should be headed by the Accounting Officer and meet once a month. This helps to send a strong message of intent throughout the organization.</i></p>	<p>Manpower audit Staffing</p>

An Inquiry into System of Internal Audit within the Public Service.

<i>Recommendation No.</i>	<i>Report Recommendations</i>	<i>Ministerial Responses</i>	Area requiring funding or follow-up
1	The Integrity Commission should implement steps to create an Internal Audit Unit. The Commission should thereafter submit a report to Parliament on the Progress made following these steps by November 30, 2017.	<i>Awaiting response</i>	Creating an Internal Audit Unit

General Useful Information

- Office of Public Sector Integrity Commissioner of Canada, CAN: <http://www.psic-ispc.gc.ca/eng>
- Corruption and Crime Commission, AUS : <https://www.ccc.wa.gov.au/>
- Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, JM: <http://www.cpcpd.gov.jm/>
- Committee on Standards in Public Life, UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/the-committee-on-standards-in-public-life>