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\$1m to update voter data

An additional \$1 million would be needed to boost the Government's computer system to store updated data of about 2.2 million voters for the next round of voter registration in September, the Government Data Processing Manager, Mr Stephen Lau, said.

Mr Lau said the estimated spending to keep tab on registered voters was \$2.6 million but the per head cost would decrease with the increase in the number of voters.

The present cost was about \$1.30 to \$1.50 per head.

Responding to queries on whether the computer could also do the voter list for functional constituencies and electoral colleges, Mr Lau said technically there should be no problem but arrangements had to be finalised with concerned departments.

Commenting on the recent district board elections, the Chief Secretary, Sir Philip Haddon-Cave, said the elections cost the Government \$2.5 million but spending on publicity was higher at \$3 million.