

Head 62 — HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Controlling officer: the Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing) will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2005–06..... **\$303.0m**

Controlling Officer's Report

Programme

Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control

This programme contributes to Policy Area 31: Housing (Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands).

Detail

	2003–04 (Actual)	2004–05 (Original)	2004–05 (Revised)	2005–06 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	367.6	333.0	307.1 (-7.8%)	303.0 (-1.3%)
				(or -9.0% on 2004–05 Original)

Aim

2 Under this Programme, the Housing Department acts on behalf of Government to clear land for development or other purposes and to prevent new squatting on government land and leased agricultural land in the New Territories. It also maintains in good repair the facilities provided under the Department's Squatter Area Improvement Programme.

Brief Description

3 The work involves:

- surveying of domestic structures, business undertakings, etc. within clearance zones;
- screening of clearerees and rehousing of genuine occupants within the clearance zones;
- deterring, detecting and demolishing new illegal structures;
- investigation of cases in which squatters have applied for public rental housing with a view to boarding up or demolishing squatter structures so vacated;
- providing assistance in relocating and rehousing the occupants of illegal rooftop structures displaced by the Buildings Department's enforcement actions;
- assisting the Geotechnical Engineering Office of the Civil Engineering and Development Department to carry out non-development clearances of squatter structures on slope safety grounds;
- assisting the Environmental Protection Department to demolish compensated livestock structures on government land;
- assisting the Lands Department to enforce compliance with licence conditions issued on government land and leased agricultural land;
- registration of victims of emergency incidents for subsequent rehousing and arrangement of temporary shelter; and
- maintenance of squatter area improvement facilities.

4 In 2004–05, squatting activities were kept under tight control and any new squatting was suppressed in a timely manner. The relocating and rehousing of occupants of illegal rooftop structures displaced by the Buildings Department's enforcement actions was effectively implemented to tie in with the Buildings Department's annual target of clearing illegal rooftop structures. Clearance projects completed in the year included:

- Improvement to Castle Peak Road between Ka Loon Tsuen and Siu Lam, Tuen Mun;
- Shatin New Town Stage II Trunk Road T3 (Tai Wai Section);
- Rural Drainage Rehabilitation Scheme, Sha Po Tsuen Stream Rehabilitation, Yuen Long; and
- Proposed Ngong Ping Public Transport Interchange cum Car & Coach Park at Ngong Ping, Lantau Island.

Head 62 — HOUSING DEPARTMENT

5 The key performance measures in respect of this programme are:

Targets

	Target	2003 (Actual)	2004 (Actual)	2005 (Plan)
screening of domestic clearances' rehousing eligibility after clearance announcement	not more than 8 weeks	100%	100%	100%
arrival time of staff at the scene upon receiving message of occurrence of emergency incidents	within 1 hour	100%	100%	100%

Indicators

	2003 (Actual)	2004 (Actual)	2005 (Estimate)
programmed squatter clearances or emergency clearances			
people relocated	1 700#	200#	1 500
structures cleared	5 900#	470#	2 500
illegal rooftop structure clearances			
people relocated	2 600	2 800	2 300
buildings with rooftop clearance completed	880	850	700
squatter control			
non-urban (excluding islands areas) squatter population.....	190 000	189 000	188 700
illegal structures demolished.....	370	210	140
cases investigated for squatters who have applied for public rental housing	1 840	1 100	1 100
emergency			
emergency incidents such as rainstorms, flooding, fires, and landslips attended to and immediate rehousing assistance to the victims provided.....	26	20	26

The variance between actual figures of 2003 and 2004 was mainly due to completion of a large-scale clearance project at Deep Bay Link covering 71 hectares of land and involving 3 000 structures, 370 families with 840 persons in July 2003. Reduction in number of people relocated in 2004 was mainly due to postponement or rescheduling of some major development projects at the request of works departments. Nevertheless, the clearance manpower was deployed to strengthen illegal rooftop structures clearance to relocate 2 800 persons in 850 buildings, against the pledge of 700 buildings every year.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2005–06

6 During 2005–06, the Department will:

- undertake the clearance projects brought forward from 2004–05 due to postponement or rescheduling of programmes initiated by works departments;
- assist the relocating and rehousing of illegal rooftop occupants displaced by the Buildings Department's intensified enforcement actions;
- render data matching support to the Drainage Services Department in flood hazard studies in squatter areas;
- assist the Geotechnical Engineering Office of the Civil Engineering and Development Department to maintain the database for non-development clearances by the use of Geographical Information System; and
- continue the work on publicity and elimination of mosquito breeding spots in relation to the control and prevention of dengue fever in squatter areas in the New Territories.

Head 62 — HOUSING DEPARTMENT

ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2003-04 (Actual) (\$m)	2004-05 (Original) (\$m)	2004-05 (Revised) (\$m)	2005-06 (Estimate) (\$m)
Squatter Clearance and Squatter Control ..	367.6	333.0	307.1 (-7.8%)	303.0 (-1.3%)
				(or -9.0% on 2004-05 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2005-06 is \$4.1 million (1.3%) lower than the revised estimate for 2004-05. This is mainly due to decrease in operating expenses, the full-year effect of the 2005 pay cut and the deletion of 35 posts in 2005-06. It comprises salaries and operational expenses for 333 staff deployed under the programme of squatter clearance and squatter control, and salaries of 398 staff who are redeployed to duties in public housing estates in support of Team Clean initiatives.

Head 62 — HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Sub-head (Code)		Actual expenditure 2003-04	Approved estimate 2004-05	Revised estimate 2004-05	Estimate 2005-06
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	367,562	332,952	307,139	302,952
003	Recoverable salaries and allowances (General)				
		2,976,559			
	Deduct reimbursements	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
		<i>Cr. 2,976,559</i>			
	Total, Recurrent	<u>367,562</u>	<u>332,952</u>	<u>307,139</u>	<u>302,952</u>
	Total, Operating Account	<u>367,562</u>	<u>332,952</u>	<u>307,139</u>	<u>302,952</u>
<hr/>					
	Total Expenditure	<u><u>367,562</u></u>	<u><u>332,952</u></u>	<u><u>307,139</u></u>	<u><u>302,952</u></u>

Head 62 — HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2005–06 for the expenses of those activities of the Housing Department that are funded from General Revenue is \$302,952,000. This represents a decrease of \$4,187,000 against the revised estimate for 2004–05 and of \$64,610,000 against actual expenditure in 2003–04.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$302,952,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses incurred by the Housing Department under the programme of squatter clearance and squatter control. It includes the salaries of staff redeployed to duties in public housing estates in support of Team Clean initiatives.

3 Gross provision of \$2,976,559,000 under *Subhead 003 Recoverable salaries and allowances (General)* is for salaries and allowances for civil servants working in the Housing Authority including those work under the programme of squatter clearance and squatter control. Expenditure under this subhead is reimbursed by the Authority.