

Head 139 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: FOOD AND HEALTH BUREAU (FOOD BRANCH)

Controlling officer: the Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2016–17 **\$147.9m**

Establishment ceiling 2016–17 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 41 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2016 rising by four posts to 45 posts as at 31 March 2017 **\$28.4m**

In addition, there will be an estimated eight directorate posts as at 31 March 2016 rising by one post to nine posts as at 31 March 2017.

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

Programme (1) Director of Bureau's Office	This programme contributes to Policy Area 27: Intra-Governmental Services (Secretary for Food and Health).
Programme (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety	This programme contributes to Policy Area 2: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety (Secretary for Food and Health).
Programme (3) Environmental Hygiene	This programme contributes to Policy Area 32: Environmental Hygiene (Secretary for Food and Health).

Detail

Programme (1): Director of Bureau's Office

	2014–15 (Actual)	2015–16 (Original)	2015–16 (Revised)	2016–17 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	11.4	11.1	11.8 (+6.3%)	11.8 (—)
				(or +6.3% on 2015–16 Original)

Aim

- 2 The aim is to ensure the smooth operation of the Office of the Secretary for Food and Health.

Brief Description

3 The Office of the Secretary for Food and Health is responsible for providing support to the Secretary for Food and Health in undertaking political work. This includes the support provided by the Under Secretary and the Political Assistant. The Office is also responsible for providing administrative support to the Secretary for Food and Health in carrying out his duties. The work includes the planning, co-ordination and implementation of all arrangements for the Secretary's public, media and community functions.

Programme (2): Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

	2014–15 (Actual)	2015–16 (Original)	2015–16 (Revised)	2016–17 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	37.1	50.3	49.3 (–2.0%)	96.4 (+95.5%)
				(or +91.7% on 2015–16 Original)

Aim

4 The aim is to formulate and oversee implementation of policies to ensure that food available for human consumption is safe, respond to food incidents effectively, prevent the introduction and spread of zoonotic diseases and diseases in animals and plants, facilitate the sustainable development of the agricultural and fisheries industries, and oversee efficient operation of government wholesale marketing facilities for fresh food produce.

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Brief Description

5 The Branch's main responsibility under this programme is to formulate and co-ordinate policies and programmes relating to the above activities. It made good progress in achieving the targets set for 2015.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2016–17

6 During 2016–17, the Branch will:

- put forth specific legislative proposals in respect of regulation of nutrition claims and health claims for formula products and prepackaged food for infants and young children under the age of 36 months;
- redevelop the Food Safety Laboratory of the Government Laboratory to increase its testing capacity in preparation for the implementation of new legislation on food safety as well as enhancing its operational efficiency;
- devise and implement a strategic plan for encouraging reduced intake of salt and sugars in food to promote a healthy diet;
- put forth legislative/administrative proposals in respect of the regulation of the safety and quality standards of edible fats and oils and recycling of waste cooking oils;
- conduct public consultation on regulation of the level of heavy metal in food;
- conduct public consultation on regulation of cooked meat;
- refine the details of the proposed regulatory framework governing veterinary drug residues in food with reference to the implementation of the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132 CM);
- follow up on the proposals to introduce a pre-market safety assessment scheme for genetically modified food;
- implement the new agriculture policy to proactively support the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture, including preparing for the establishment of the Agricultural Park and the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund;
- follow through the consultancy study on the future of the live poultry trade and consult the public on the recommendations of the consultant;
- continue to implement a multi-pronged strategy to prevent avian influenza outbreak;
- continue to review and update the existing standards on food safety having regard to international practices and local needs;
- monitor the progress of various measures introduced to sustain and upgrade the development of local fisheries;
- keep in view development of policies and measures pertaining to animal welfare and management, including progress of the trap-neuter-return trial programme of stray dogs;
- follow through the legislative amendment exercise to tighten the framework for regulating pet trading;
- prepare regulations under the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529) to provide for the election of members of the veterinary profession to the Veterinary Surgeons Board; and
- prepare legislation for implementing the requirements of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in Hong Kong, including the Catch Documentation Scheme for toothfish and other relevant conservation measures.

Programme (3): Environmental Hygiene

	2014–15 (Actual)	2015–16 (Original)	2015–16 (Revised)	2016–17 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	25.4	22.9	20.7 (–9.6%)	39.7 (+91.8%)
				(or +73.4% on 2015–16 Original)

Aim

7 The aim is to provide quality environmental hygiene services in the territory, strengthen the management of public markets, minimise the risks and threats caused to public health by pest and other nuisances, increase the supply of columbarium and crematorium facilities and enhance the regulation of private columbaria, enhance the effectiveness of regulatory control over food premises, and promote public involvement in the upkeep of personal and environmental hygiene standards.

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Brief Description

8 The Branch's main responsibility under this programme is to formulate and co-ordinate policies and programmes relating to the above activities. It made good progress in achieving the targets set for 2015.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2016–17

9 During 2016–17, the Branch will:

- formulate improvement proposals for a number of public markets, taking into account the recommendations of the consultancy study conducted in 2014;
- continue to implement measures to increase the supply of public columbarium and crematorium facilities and to promote the scattering of cremated human ashes at sea or in Gardens of Remembrance;
- follow through the legislative process of the Private Columbaria Bill with a view to enhancing the regulation of private columbaria;
- continue to implement the assistance scheme for improving the fire safety and operating environment of fixed-pitch hawker areas; and
- follow through the implementation of measures to improve the operation of the liquor licensing regime.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

	2014–15 (Actual) (\$m)	2015–16 (Original) (\$m)	2015–16 (Revised) (\$m)	2016–17 (Estimate) (\$m)
Programme				
(1) Director of Bureau’s Office	11.4	11.1	11.8	11.8
(2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety.....	37.1	50.3	49.3	96.4
(3) Environmental Hygiene	25.4	22.9	20.7	39.7
	<hr/> 73.9	<hr/> 84.3	<hr/> 81.8 (–3.0%)	<hr/> 147.9 (+80.8%)
				(or +75.4% on 2015–16 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2016–17 is the same as the revised estimate for 2015–16.

Programme (2)

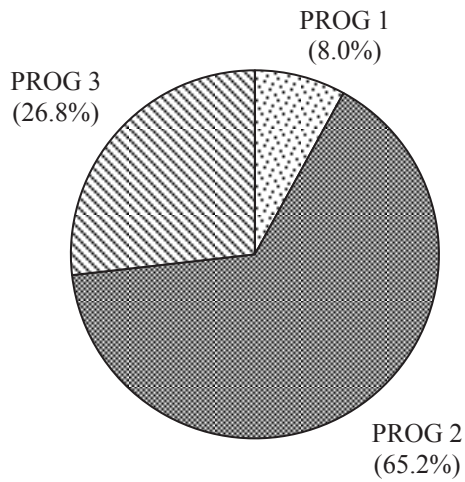
Provision for 2016–17 is \$47.1 million (95.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2015–16. This is mainly due to the increased provision for personal emoluments and operating expenses for strengthening executive support and policy support for the entire programme area, including mainly for work on conducting research and studies relating to the ongoing work on powdered formula products, developing guidelines and good practices on “re-used oils”, supporting the Fishermen Claim Appeal Board and dealing with any contingency measures arising from avian influenza incidents.

Programme (3)

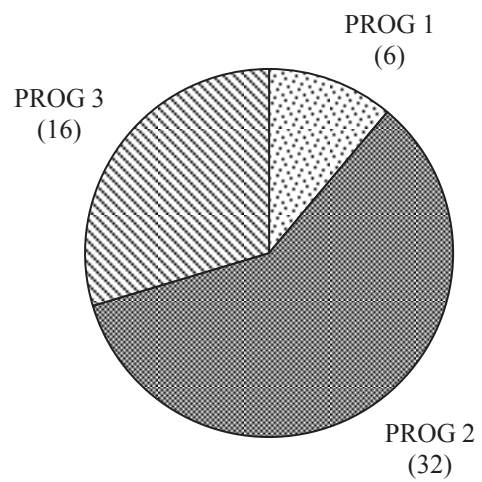
Provision for 2016–17 is \$19.0 million (91.8%) higher than the revised estimate for 2015–16. This is mainly due to the increased provision for operating expenses required for implementing the Private Columbaria Bill; the conduct of technical studies needed to gain local acceptance of works projects including public columbaria; and implementing measures for meeting environmental hygiene exigencies such as health threats related to dengue fever.

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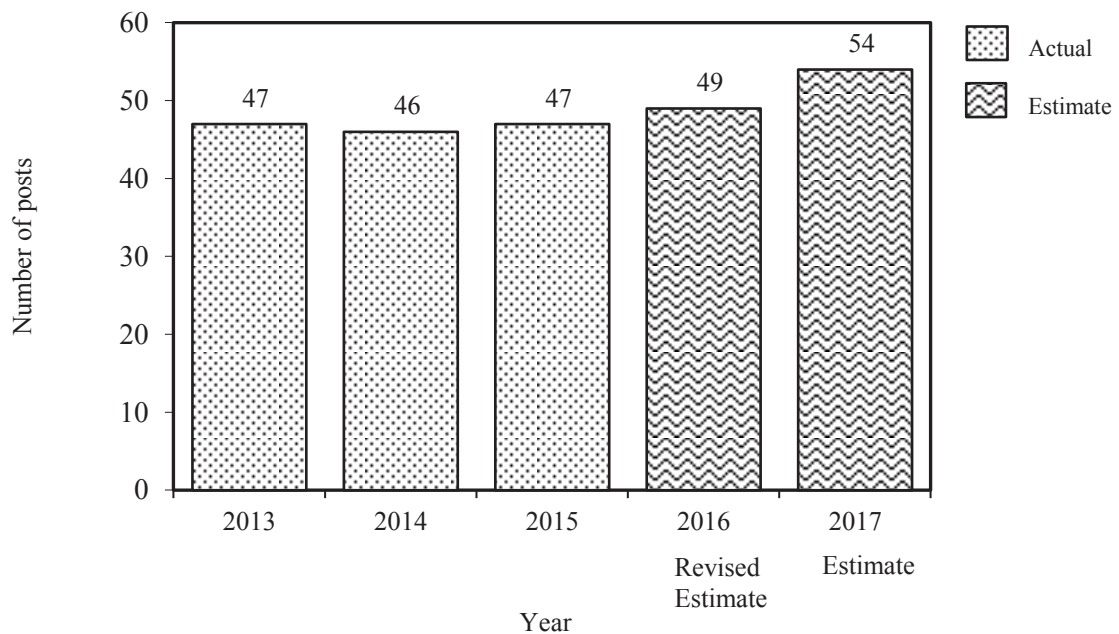
*Allocation of provision
to programmes
(2016-17)*



*Staff by programme
(as at 31 March 2017)*



*Changes in the size of the establishment
(as at 31 March)*



**Head 139 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: FOOD AND HEALTH BUREAU
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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2014–15	Approved estimate 2015–16	Revised estimate 2015–16	Estimate 2016–17	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	73,860	84,292	81,837	147,914
	Total, Recurrent.....	<u>73,860</u>	<u>84,292</u>	<u>81,837</u>	<u>147,914</u>
	Total, Operating Account	73,860	84,292	81,837	147,914
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	Total Expenditure	<u>73,860</u>	<u>84,292</u>	<u>81,837</u>	<u>147,914</u>

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2016–17 for the salaries and expenses of the Food Branch is \$147,914,000. This represents an increase of \$66,077,000 over the revised estimate for 2015–16 and \$74,054,000 over the actual expenditure in 2014–15.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$147,914,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Food Branch. The increase of \$66,077,000 (80.8%) over the revised estimate for 2015–16 is mainly due to the increased provision for personal emoluments and operating expenses mainly for work relating to public columbarium development, research support for food safety, supporting the work of the Fishermen Claim Appeal Board and dealing with contingency measures arising from avian influenza incidents.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2016 will be 49 posts. It is expected that there will be a net increase of five posts including one supernumerary post in 2016–17. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2016–17, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$28,428,000.

4 An analysis of the financial provision under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is as follows:

	2014–15 (Actual) (\$'000)	2015–16 (Original) (\$'000)	2015–16 (Revised) (\$'000)	2016–17 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries.....	37,090	39,281	40,924	45,681
- Allowances.....	1,719	2,471	2,346	2,540
- Job-related allowances.....	—	2	2	2
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	54	57	61	105
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	1,076	1,390	1,238	1,786
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	33,921	41,091	37,266	97,800
	73,860	84,292	81,837	147,914