

Head 62 — HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Controlling officer: the Director of Housing will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2002–03 **\$387.6m**

Controlling Officer's Report

Programme

Squatter and Temporary Housing Clearance and Squatter Control

This programme contributes to Policy Area 31: Housing (Secretary for Housing).

Detail

	2000–01 (Actual)	2001–02 (Approved)	2001–02 (Revised)	2002–03 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	486.9	481.2 (–1.2%)	452.4 (–6.0%)	387.6 (–14.3%)

Aim

2 Acting on behalf of the Government, the Housing Department clears land for development or other purposes. It prevents new squatting on government land and leased agricultural land and maintains in good repair the facilities provided under the Squatter Area Improvement Programme.

Brief Description

3 The work involves:

- surveying of domestic structures, business undertakings etc. within the clearance zone;
- screening of clearees;
- deterring, detecting and demolishing new illegal structures;
- assisting the Environmental Protection Department to demolish compensated livestock structures on government land;
- assisting the Lands Department to enforce compliance with terms and conditions of licences;
- assistance in rehousing the occupants of unauthorised rooftop structures displaced by the Buildings Department's enforcement actions;
- registration of victims of natural disasters for subsequent rehousing and arrangement of temporary shelter; and
- maintenance of squatter area improvement facilities.

4 In 2001, squatting activities were kept under tight control and any new squatting was suppressed in a timely manner. Major clearance projects completed in the year included clearance of Diamond Hill Squatter Area and Inverness Road Squatter Area. All Temporary Housing Areas and Cottage Areas have been cleared.

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

Targets

	Target	2000 (Actual)	2001 (Actual)	2002 (Plan)
screening of domestic clearees' 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 natural disasters.....	within 1 hour	100%	100%	100%

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Indicators

	2000 (Actual)	2001 (Actual)	2002 (Estimate)
no. of people rehoused as a result of programmed squatter and unauthorised rooftop structure clearances or emergency clearances following natural disaster	5 800	3 500	8 300
squatter population.....	226 500	218 900	215 700
urban	20 300	14 400	14 300
non-urban	206 200	204 500	201 400
no. of illegal structures demolished	2 000	860	1 500
no. of Temporary Housing Area residents rehoused.....	4 500	1 000	—
no. of Cottage Area residents rehoused.....	550	1 400	—

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2002–03

6 A major clearance task, the Deep Bay Link clearance project for construction of Shenzhen Western Corridor, will be carried out in 2002. Squatter control duties will be transferred to the Lands Department in phases commencing April 2002.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2000-01 (Actual) (\$m)	2001-02 (Approved) (\$m)	2001-02 (Revised) (\$m)	2002-03 (Estimate) (\$m)
Squatter and Temporary Housing Clearance and Squatter Control.....	486.9	481.2 (-1.2%)	452.4 (-6.0%)	387.6 (-14.3%)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2002-03 is \$64.8 million (14.3%) lower than the revised estimate for 2001-02. This is mainly due to the Phase 1 transfer of squatter control duties to the Lands Department and deletion of 17 posts and reduced operating expenditure under the Enhanced Productivity Programme.

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Sub-head (Code)		Actual expenditure 2000-01	Approved estimate 2001-02	Revised estimate 2001-02	Estimate 2002-03
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Recurrent Account					
I — Personal Emoluments					
003	Recoverable salaries and allowances	4,237,399			
	<i>Deduct</i> reimbursements..... <i>Cr.4,237,399</i>	—	—	—	—
	Total, Personal Emoluments	—	—	—	—
IV — Other Charges					
294	Clearance and squatter control	486,855	481,200	452,422	387,593
	Total, Other Charges	486,855	481,200	452,422	387,593
	Total, Recurrent Account	486,855	481,200	452,422	387,593
	Total Expenditure	486,855	481,200	452,422	387,593

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2002–03 for the expenses of those activities of the Housing Department that are funded from General Revenue is \$387,593,000. This represents a decrease of \$64,829,000 against the revised estimate for 2001–02 and of \$99,262,000 against actual expenditure in 2000–01.

Recurrent Account

Personal Emoluments

2 Staff in the department remain in the civil service. Expenditure on the salaries and allowances of the staff is reimbursable by the Hong Kong Housing Authority. Provision of \$4,237,399,000 has been included under *Subhead 003 Recoverable salaries and allowances* together with a credit item for reimbursements made by the Authority. Overhead costs are reimbursed by the Authority and credited to General Revenue.

3 Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated powers create or delete non-directorate posts during 2002–03. For posts funded by the Authority, and before exercising his delegated powers, the controlling officer is required to seek the advice of the Departmental Establishment Committee and, subsequently, to obtain the endorsement of the Authority that the proposals and their financial implications are acceptable. However, the gross estimate under *Subhead 003* must not be exceeded without the prior approval of the Secretary for the Treasury.

Other Charges

4 Provision of \$387,593,000 under *Subhead 294 Clearance and squatter control* is for staff costs and other expenses incurred in clearing squatters and unauthorised rooftop structures, preventing and controlling squatting; and for expenses incurred in maintaining facilities provided by the Housing Department under the programme of improvements to squatter areas.