

## Head 5 — FINES, FORFEITURES AND PENALTIES

### Details of Revenue

Sub-head (Code)	Actual revenue 1998–99	Original estimate 1999–2000	Revised estimate 1999–2000	Estimate 2000–01
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
010 Court fines and statutory penalties .....	665,420	702,481	532,856	<b>561,193</b>
020 Forfeitures .....	39,297	28,882	51,096	<b>49,588</b>
030 Fixed penalty system (Traffic Contraventions) ..	378,427	486,366	297,553	<b>297,539</b>
040 Fixed penalty system (Criminal Proceedings) ....	247,701	305,785	201,206	<b>201,206</b>
050 Payments by civil servants .....	1,746	1,966	1,787	<b>1,505</b>
Total .....	<u>1,332,591</u>	<u>1,525,480</u>	<u>1,084,498</u>	<u><b>1,111,031</b></u>

### Description of Revenue Sources

To this revenue head are credited fines imposed by the Courts and penalties imposed by statute, forfeitures resulting from Court orders or from breaches of contracts and agreements with the Government, penalties arising from the fixed penalty system for traffic offences under the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contraventions) Ordinance (Cap. 237) and the Fixed Penalty (Criminal Proceedings) Ordinance (Cap. 240), the fixed penalty ticket system for parking offences in public housing estates and payments by civil servants in respect of disciplinary proceedings and breaches of contract.

Revenue from fines, forfeitures and penalties generated 0.7% of general revenue in 1999–2000.

### Underlying Changes in Revenue Yield

The **1999–2000** revised estimate of \$1,084,498,000 is a net decrease of \$440,982,000 (28.9%) against the original estimate.

Under *Subhead 010 Court fines and statutory penalties* the decrease of \$169,625,000 (24.1%) is mainly due to the decrease in the number of court cases involving imposition of fines.

Under *Subhead 020 Forfeitures* the increase of \$22,214,000 (76.9%) is mainly due to the higher than expected revenue from the forfeiture cases and the sale of confiscated goods.

Under *Subhead 030 Fixed penalty system (Traffic Contraventions)* the decrease of \$188,813,000 (38.8%) is due to the Administration's withdrawal of the proposal to increase the fine levels in 1999–2000 and the lower than anticipated number of fixed penalty tickets issued for traffic offences.

Under *Subhead 040 Fixed penalty system (Criminal Proceedings)* the decrease of \$104,579,000 (34.2%) is due to the Administration's withdrawal of the proposal to increase the fine levels in 1999–2000 and the lower than anticipated number of fixed penalty tickets issued for traffic offences.

The **2000–01** estimate of \$1,111,031,000 is a net increase of \$26,533,000 (2.4%) on the revised estimate for 1999–2000.

Under *Subhead 050 Payments by civil servants* the decrease of \$282,000 (15.8%) is mainly due to the anticipated decrease in the number of cases in which civil servants resigning from the civil service choose to pay salary in lieu of observing the prescribed notice period.