

Head 42 — ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Controlling officer: the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2000–01 **\$232.3m**

Establishment ceiling 2000–01 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 350 non-directorate posts at 31 March 2000 rising by 13 posts to 363 posts at 31 March 2001 **\$145.3m**

In addition there will be an estimated ten directorate posts at 31 March 2000 rising by one post to 11 posts at 31 March 2001.

Capital Account commitment balance **\$32.5m**

Controlling Officer's Report

From 1 August 1996, expenditure on electrical, mechanical and electronic services is charged to the Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund (EMSTF) and met from revenue from charges on services provided.

2 Expenses incurred on activities which contribute to regulatory and trading services are charged to Head 42 and a proportion attributable to trading services is reimbursed by the EMSTF to General Revenue.

3 Details of expenses incurred on trading services together with performance measures are given in the Business Plan and annual accounts of the EMSTF.

Programmes

Programme (1) Electrical, gas and nuclear safety	This programme contributes to Policy Area 7: Public Safety (Secretary for Economic Services), Policy Area 9: Internal Security (Secretary for Security) and Policy Area 23: Environmental Protection and Conservation (Secretary for the Environment and Food).
Programme (2) Mechanical engineering installations safety	This programme contributes to Policy Area 22: Buildings, Lands and Planning (Secretary for Planning and Lands).
Programme (3) Energy efficiency and air quality	This programme contributes to Policy Area 23: Environmental Protection and Conservation (Secretary for the Environment and Food).
Programme (4) Centralised services and special support	This programme contributes to Policy Area 27: Intra-Governmental Services (Secretary for Works).

Detail

Programme (1): Electrical, gas and nuclear safety

	1998–99 (Actual)	1999–2000 (Approved)	1999–2000 (Revised)	2000–01 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	87.7	92.9 (+5.9%)	97.2 (+4.6%)	104.8 (+7.8%)

Aim

4 The aim is to regulate and monitor safety and technical standards in respect of electrical and gas equipment and installations, to monitor the operation and development of the electricity utilities, and to provide technical support and engineering advice on matters relating to implementation of contingency plans during nuclear emergencies so that public safety will be safeguarded.

Brief Description

5 For the regulation and control function, the department is responsible for the preparation of drafting instructions, administration and enforcement of legislation (Electricity Ordinance and Gas Safety Ordinance) and supporting regulations concerning safety of electrical and gas equipment and installations, and dealing with all on-going matters concerning the regulation and monitoring of the activities of the electricity and gas industry. The work involves:

Gas Safety

- enforcement of Gas Safety Ordinance, including registration of gas supply companies, installers and contractors and approval of gas installation applications and inspection of those installations;
- risk assessment of potentially hazardous installations and land use planning aspects;

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- investigation of gas incidents;
- promotion of gas safety;

LPG Vehicle Safety

- draw up Codes of Practice on gas safety for LPG filling stations and LPG vehicles and maintenance workshops;
- register competent persons for maintenance of LPG vehicles and process type approval of LPG vehicles against gas safety regulations;
- examine gas safety standards and approve applications for construction of LPG filling stations and LPG vehicle maintenance workshops against such standards;
- monitor the construction and operation of five dedicated LPG filling stations and the LPG light buses trial scheme against gas safety standards;
- preliminary assessment of potential LPG filling stations and vehicle maintenance workshops against gas safety standards;

Electrical Safety

- enforcement of Electricity Ordinance, including registration of electrical workers and contractors, recognised certification bodies and recognised manufacturers, and inspection of electrical installations and products;
- investigation of electrical incidents;
- promotion of electrical safety;

Electricity Utility Monitoring (Scheme of Control Agreements)

- annual auditing review of technical performance of electricity utilities;
- annual review of demand side management (DSM) programmes of electricity utilities;
- assessment of electricity utilities' development plans; and
- technical advice relating to monitoring of electricity utilities.

In 1999, the department continued to meet its targets in respect of gas, LPG vehicles and electrical safety. The activities of electricity utility monitoring were also in line with the programmes.

6 As regards nuclear safety, the department is responsible for the preparation and implementation of departmental plans to advise the Government on possible implications to Hong Kong in the event of a nuclear emergency. The work involves:

- responding immediately to initial alert;
- interpreting and assessing engineering data/information received;
- keeping abreast of the latest developments on nuclear engineering; and
- planning and participating in exercises and drills in response to nuclear emergencies.

In 1999, the department's ability to respond to initial alert and provide technical advice and assessment on nuclear incidents continued to improve with the enhancement of communication equipment.

7 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target Wkg Days	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Plan)
<i>Gas Safety</i>				
registration of installers.....	14	14	14	14
registration of contractors	60	60	60	60
approval of construction of notifiable gas installations.....	40	34	34	34
approval for use of notifiable gas installations.....	14	14	14	14
approval for use of equipment/materials.....	30	30	30	30
scheduling and inspection of LPG road tankers & cylinder wagons	21	20	20	20
investigation of reports of illegal installations.....	10	10	10	10

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	Target Wkg Days	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Plan)
<i>LPG Vehicle Safety</i>				
registration of competent persons for maintenance of fuel systems†	30	N.A.§	30	30
approval for use of LPG fuel tanks in vehicles†	30	N.A.§	30	30
approval of construction of filling stations†	40	N.A.§	34	34
maintenance workshops†	40	N.A.§	34	34
approval for use of filling stations†	14	N.A.§	14	14
maintenance workshops†	14	N.A.§	14	14
<i>Electrical Safety</i>				
registration of electrical workers/ contractors	14	14	14	14
registration of recognised certification bodies and manufacturers	40	40	31	20
endorsement of testing certificate of electrical installations	14	14	14	14
investigation of incidents/complaints related to electrical installations/ products	14	14	14	14
<i>Electricity Utility Monitoring</i>				
conduct an annual technical performance audit on each of the two power companies under the Scheme of Control Agreements	120	128	120	120
provide technical input in the financial auditing review of capital expenditure variances of transmission and distribution projects	60	60	60	60
provide technical advice related to electricity utilities matters	14	14	14	14
conduct an assessment of the planning/performance of the two power companies' DSM programmes	60	55	37	60

Nuclear Safety

The target is to ensure the availability of fully trained and competent officers round the clock to provide an immediate response to an initial alert, and to provide technical expertise and advice to Government on matters relating to nuclear power and nuclear emergencies.

† New targets as from 2000

§ Not applicable

Indicators

	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Estimate)
<i>Gas Safety</i>			
no. of site inspections	4 697	4 933	4 810
no. of visits to gas contractors	294	332	300
no. of LPG road tankers and cylinder wagons inspected	713	739	740
no. of notifiable gas installations approved	67	56	50
no. of requests for advice/public enquiries/complaints	2 512	2 963	2 300
no. of gas incidents investigated	649	565	530
no. of prosecutions/improvement notices served	126	121	95
<i>LPG Vehicle Safety</i>			
no. of competent persons registration processed†	N.A.§	137	180
no. of LPG fuel tanks in vehicles approved†	N.A.§	300	2 500
no. of inspections of vehicles, filling stations and maintenance workshops†	N.A.§	111	300
no. of filling stations approved†	N.A.§	—	20
no. of maintenance workshops approved†	N.A.§	3	10
no. of requests for advice/public enquiries/complaints†	N.A.§	221	900

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	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Estimate)
<i>Electrical Safety</i>			
no. of site inspections on electrical installations			
fast-track site inspection	3 741	7 625	—
regular site inspection including following-up.....	1 600	5 808	9 000
no. of site inspections on electrical products.....	3 727	3 803	3 800
no. of electrical worker/contractor/competent person registration applications processed (including renewal).....	32 736	17 480	10 000
no. of recognised certification bodies and manufacturers applications processed	20	9	10
no. of periodic testing certificates of electrical installations processed	8 007	7 200	6 000
no. of electrical incidents investigated.....	169	143	170
no. of reported unsafe electrical installations/products investigated.....	352	523	400
no. of prosecutions/disciplinary actions conducted.....	229	232	230
no. of requests for advice/enquiries	35 530	31 002	30 000
<i>Electricity Utility Monitoring</i>			
no. of technical indicators assessed in the annual auditing review to monitor the technical performance of electricity utilities	55	56	56
no. of transmission and distribution projects assessed relating to technical input in the financial auditing review of capital expenditure variances	25	25	25
no. of requests for advice on electricity utilities matters handled	80	110	80
no. of DSM programmes examined in the annual performance/triennial planning assessment	27	19	35
<i>Nuclear Safety</i>			
no. of technical co-operation or exchanges participated	5	3	3
no. of exercises and drills participated.....	3	7	4

† New indicators as from 2000

§ Not applicable

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000–01

8 During 2000–01, the department will:

- draw up Codes of Practice on gas safety for LPG filling stations and LPG vehicles and workshops;
- register competent persons for maintenance of LPG vehicles and process type approval of LPG vehicles against gas safety regulations;
- examine gas safety standards and approve applications for construction of LPG filling stations and LPG vehicle maintenance workshop against such standards;
- monitor the construction and operation of five dedicated LPG filling stations and the LPG light buses trial scheme against gas safety standards;
- further develop measures for the storage and conveyance of LPG cylinders (including overnight parking of vehicles), cartridges, lighters and aerosol cans;
- finalise and implement the Code of Practice for LPG distributor with a view to enhancing gas safety;
- amend and enforce the regulations on flueless gas water heaters under the Gas Safety Regulations;
- finalise and enforce the regulations on approval of domestic gas appliances under the Gas Safety Regulations;
- develop Code of Practice for installation of gas water heaters;
- implement the provision of the Electrical Products (Safety) Regulation on Certificate of Safety Compliance;
- implement the proposed Electricity Supply Lines (Protection) Regulation, if enacted;
- prepare law drafting instructions for the new Electricity Supply Regulation and draw up the associated Code of Practice;
- monitor the actual performance of the power companies' DSM programmes (excluding residential sector); and
- conduct follow-up consultancy studies in interconnection and competition in the electricity supply sector in Hong Kong.

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Programme (2): Mechanical engineering installations safety

	1998-99 (Actual)	1999-2000 (Approved)	1999-2000 (Revised)	2000-01 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	18.6	19.9 (+7.0%)	19.5 (-2.0%)	20.6 (+5.6%)

Aim

9 The aim is to regulate and monitor the safety and technical standards in respect of lifts, escalators, builders' lifts and tower working platforms, amusement rides, trams and other mechanical installations so that public safety is safeguarded.

Brief Description

10 The department is responsible for the administration and enforcement of various legislation, including Lifts and Escalators (Safety) Ordinance, Amusement Rides (Safety) Ordinance, Aerial Ropeways (Safety) Ordinance, Builders' Lifts and Tower Working Platforms (Safety) Ordinance, certain provisions of the Tramway Ordinance and Peak Tramway (Safety) Regulations. For practical reasons, activities relating to all such legislation which are under different policy areas are reported under this programme. The work involves:

- preparation of drafting instructions and enforcement of legislation, including registration of contractors, engineers and various competent persons and inspection of installations;
- preparation of Codes of Practice;
- incident investigations;
- expert advice; and
- initiating prosecution and taking disciplinary actions.

The department continued to meet its targets in 1999.

11 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target Wkg days	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Plan)
registration of lift/escalator engineers/ contractors.....	60	60	60	60
endorsement of periodic test certificates for				
lifts and escalators	14	14	14	14
builders' lifts and tower working platforms	14	14	14	14
issue of permits to use for				
lifts and escalators	14	14	14	14
builders' lifts and tower working platforms	14	14	14	14
amusement rides	14	14	14	14
approval of design and construction of amusement rides	55	55	55	55

Indicators

	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Estimate)
no. of certificates processed			
lifts and escalators	48 478	49 314	51 000
builders' lifts and tower working platforms	366	423	490
no. of inspection			
lifts and escalators			
(no.)	3 052	3 272	3 600
(%)	7.3	7.6	8.0
builders' lifts and tower working platforms	188	268	280
amusement rides	2 274	2 187	2 200
no. of incidents			
reported (no.)	562	662	690
investigation required (no.)	194	167	170

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	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Estimate)
no. of incident/1 000 registered lifts	1.2	1.3	1.3
no. of incident/100 registered escalators	10.3	11.8	11.8
expenditure per registered lift/escalator (\$)	190	186	185
no. of requests for advice/enquiries/complaints	1 195	2 062	2 100

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000–01

12 During 2000–01, the department will:

- prepare the Code of Practice on the mechanised car parking systems;
- prepare the Chinese version of the Code of Practice on the Design and Construction of Tower Working Platforms;
- finalise the revision of the Code of Practice on Examination, Testing and Maintenance of Lifts and Escalators;
- propose amendments to the Tramway Ordinance;
- carry out renewal of registration of contractors and examiners for builders' lifts and tower working platforms; and
- assess the various designs of a proposed aerial ropeway on Lantau Island.

Programme (3): Energy efficiency and air quality

	1998–99 (Actual)	1999–2000 (Approved)	1999–2000 (Revised)	2000–01 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	28.3	23.9 (–15.5%)	23.4 (–2.1%)	37.7 (+61.1%)

Aim

13 The aim is to promote energy conservation and efficiency.

Brief Description

14 The department is responsible for providing technical support to the relevant Policy Bureaux on development and implementation of energy efficiency policy as well as international co-ordination; and to develop and promote a territory wide indoor air quality programme. The work involves:

- research on energy efficiency and conservation issues;
- support to the relevant Policy Bureaux and the Energy Advisory Committee in the promulgation of energy efficiency and conservation programmes and implementation plans;
- preparation of Codes of Practices and implementation schemes;
- implementation of energy efficiency and conservation programmes;
- liaison with regional and international energy organisations; and
- carry out a trial scheme on the indoor air quality survey in selected government buildings.

In 1999, the department met most of its targets. The Energy Efficiency Office published the electrical energy code, completed an energy efficiency labelling scheme for clothes dryers and published a basic data set from the Hong Kong Energy End-use Database for public use.

15 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Plan)
<i>Energy Efficiency</i>				
development of draft building energy code (cumulative % completed)	1 code (lifts and escalators) by end 1997	100	N.A.§	N.A.§

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	Target	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Plan)
development of energy efficiency labelling schemes for electrical appliances (cumulative % completed)	1 scheme for compact fluorescent lamps by December 1998	100	N.A.§	N.A.§
	1 scheme for clothes dryers by end 1999	25	100	N.A.§
	1 scheme for water heater by end 2000	N.A.§	N.A.§	100
	1 scheme for office appliance by end 2000	N.A.§	N.A.§	100
energy audit survey of public buildings (cumulative % completed)	additional 19 bldgs by end 1998	100	N.A.§	N.A.§
	additional 17 bldgs by end 1999	N.A.§	100	N.A.§
	additional 27 bldgs by end 2000	N.A.§	N.A.§	100
to make available a Basic Data Set from the Hong Kong Energy End-use Database for public use (cumulative % completed)	by early 1999	70	100	N.A.§
updating of the Hong Kong Energy End-use Database (cumulative % completed)	1995 data by early 1999	40	100	N.A.§
	1996 data by end 1999	20	100	N.A.§
	1997 data by mid 2000	N.A.§	N.A.§	100
	1998 data by end 2000	N.A.§	N.A.§	100
implementation of water-cooled air conditioning system in Hong Kong (cumulative % completed)†	to start territorial implementation study in 2000	N.A.§	N.A.§	100
<i>Indoor Air Quality</i>				
Indoor air quality survey in selected government buildings (no. of buildings)†	70	N.A.§	N.A.§	70

† New targets as from 2000

§ Not applicable

Indicators

	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Estimate)
<i>Energy Audit</i>			
no. of public buildings under investigation	27	30	35
audit survey completed.....	19	17	27
estimated energy saving per year (Tera Joule)	55	45	46
<i>Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme</i>			
types of products under investigation.....	2	2	3

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	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Estimate)
testing procedures being developed	2	2	2
schemes on actual implementation.....	4	5	7
<i>Energy Code</i>			
no. of building energy codes being implemented	2	3	4
no. of building energy codes being developed.....	1	1	—
no. of building energy codes under review†	N.A.§	N.A.§	2
no. of building energy codes review completed†.....	N.A.§	N.A.§	—
<i>Updating of Hong Kong Energy End-use Database</i>			
year updated.....	N.A.§	1995 & 1996	1997 & 1998
<i>Energy Consumption Survey</i>			
no. of survey being implemented†	N.A.§	N.A.§	1
no. of survey completed†	N.A.§	N.A.§	—
<i>Energy Consumption Indicators</i>			
no. of segments/end-uses under investigation†	N.A.§	N.A.§	4
no. of segments/end-uses with indicators developed†	N.A.§	N.A.§	—
<i>Water-cooled Air Conditioning system</i>			
no. of studies being conducted†	N.A.§	N.A.§	1
no. of studies completed†	N.A.§	N.A.§	—
<i>Energy Advisory Notes and Guidelines</i>			
no. of Energy Advisory Notes and Guidelines			
being developed	2	3	2
issued	3	3	3

† New indicators as from 2000

§ Not applicable

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000–01

16 During 2000–01, the department will:

- administer and maintain an energy end-use database for Hong Kong;
- consult the public on the introduction of statutory requirements on energy efficiency and conservation;
- implement a voluntary energy efficiency labelling scheme for clothes dryers;
- plan a new energy efficiency labelling scheme for vehicles;
- implement the lifts and escalators energy code for buildings;
- review the lighting and air conditioning energy codes for buildings;
- implement energy management opportunities in selected government buildings;
- conduct implementation studies for water-cooled commercial air-conditioning systems in Hong Kong;
- implement pilot schemes for innovative energy efficient equipment;
- review the implementation of building energy code under the Energy Efficiency Registration Scheme for Buildings;
- recommend a way forward for introducing energy services companies to enhance energy efficiency and conservation within the Administration;
- examine ways of introducing renewable energy in Hong Kong;
- implement a household energy consumption survey;
- establish energy consumption indicators and targets for selected segments/end-uses in the transport and commercial sectors; and
- carry out a trial scheme on the indoor air quality survey in selected government buildings.

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Programme (4): Centralised services and special support

	1998–99 (Actual)	1999–2000 (Approved)	1999–2000 (Revised)	2000–01 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	73.0	70.4 (–3.6%)	68.3 (–3.0%)	69.2 (+1.3%)

Aim

17 The aim is to provide efficient and cost-effective centralised services and special support for simultaneous interpretation facilities to government departments.

Brief Description

18 The department co-ordinates the demolition of the Kwai Chung Incineration Plant (KCIP) and the Kennedy Town Incineration Plant (KTIP); and provision of contract management services for simultaneous interpretation systems. The department's work also includes management of the EMSTF.

In 1999, the department has broadly achieved the aim of the programme.

19 The key performance measures are:

Targets

To ensure the provision of adequate technical support for simultaneous interpretation services.

Indicators

	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Estimate)
Compliance ratio on scheduled simultaneous interpretation meetings	100%	100%	100%
Compliance ratio on ad hoc simultaneous interpretation meetings (within 8 hours' notice)	100%	100%	100%

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000–01

20 During 2000–01, the department will:

- dispose of ozone depleting chemicals (halons) retired from fire fighting installations in a safe and environmental friendly manner by means of incineration; and
- co-ordinate the KCIP and KTIP demolition work.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	1998-99 (Actual) (\$m)	1999-2000 (Approved) (\$m)	1999-2000 (Revised) (\$m)	2000-01 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Electrical, gas and nuclear safety.....	87.7	92.9	97.2	104.8
(2) Mechanical engineering installations safety.....	18.6	19.9	19.5	20.6
(3) Energy efficiency and air quality	28.3	23.9	23.4	37.7
(4) Centralised services and special support.....	73.0	70.4	68.3	69.2
	207.6	207.1 (-0.2%)	208.4 (+0.6%)	232.3 (+11.5%)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2000-01 is \$7.6 million (7.8%) higher than the revised estimate for 1999-2000. This is mainly due to the increased provision for hire of services to monitor the replacement programme of flueless gas water heaters, the consultancy study on interconnection capacity between the two power companies, salary increments for existing staff and full-year provision for posts created and filled in 1999-2000. The increase is partly offset by the reduction in expenditure upon completion of some capital account items in 1999-2000.

Programme (2)

Provision for 2000-01 is \$1.1 million (5.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 1999-2000. This is mainly due to salary increments for existing staff, filling of vacancies and the creation of one post to strengthen general clerical support.

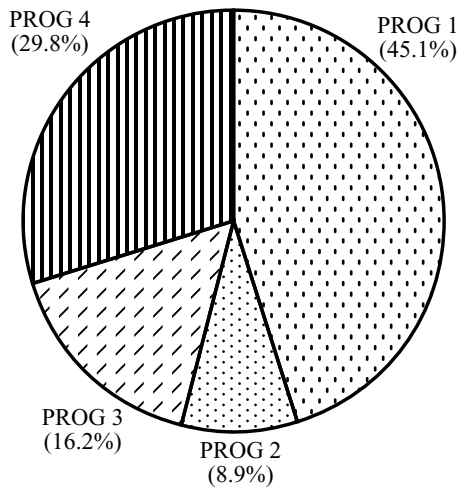
Programme (3)

Provision for 2000-01 is \$14.3 million (61.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 1999-2000. This is mainly due to increased provision for a pilot study on the indoor air quality in selected government buildings, consultancy studies on residential household energy consumption and development of energy consumption indices, cash flow requirement for the energy management opportunities implementation programme, and the creation of 15 posts during 2000-01 for energy consumption conservation initiatives.

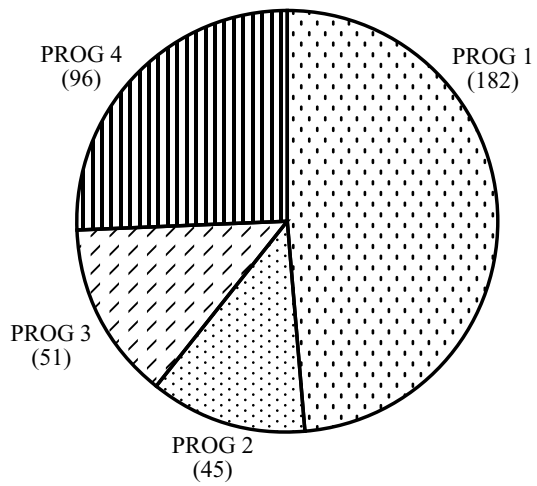
Programme (4)

Provision for 2000-01 is \$0.9 million (1.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 1999-2000. This is mainly due to salary increments for existing staff and filling of vacancies, partly offset by the completion of the replacement of halons fire extinguishing installations in various government buildings and the deletion of two posts under the Enhanced Productivity Programme.

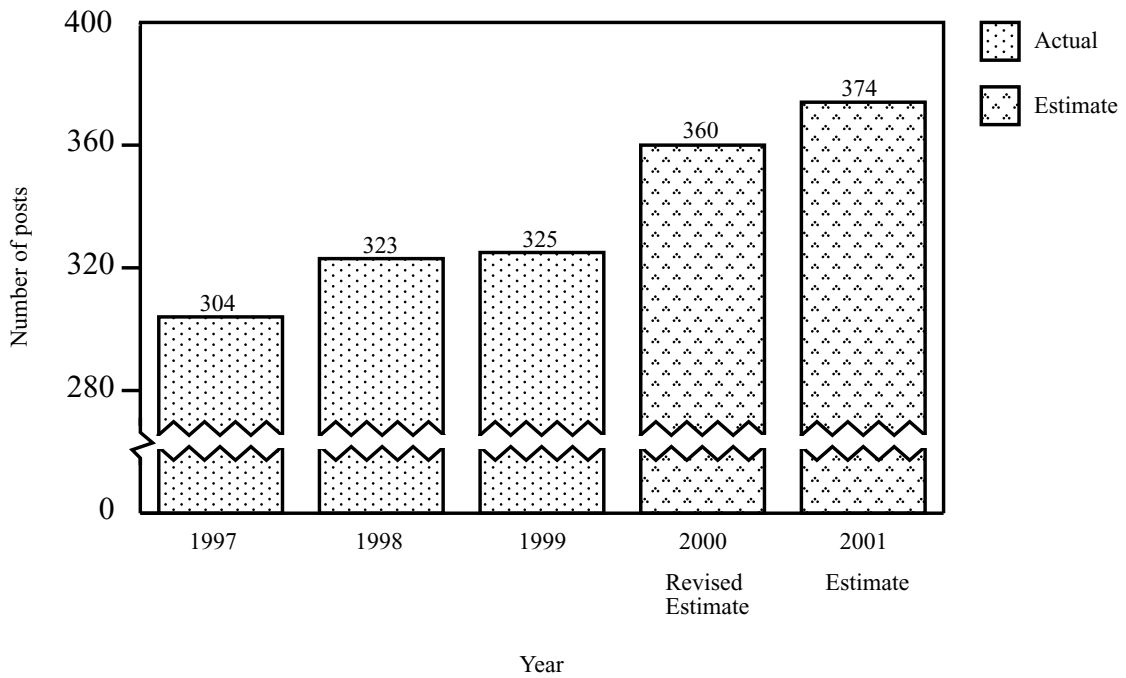
Allocation of provision to programmes (2000-01)



Staff by programme (as at 31 March 2001)



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



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Sub-head (Code)		Actual expenditure 1998-99	Approved estimate 1999-2000	Revised estimate 1999-2000	Estimate 2000-01
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Recurrent Account					
I — Personal Emoluments					
001	Salaries	136,054	148,255	145,457	158,962
002	Allowances	3,653	4,975	4,975	4,975
007	Job-related allowances	106	78	78	78
	Total, Personal Emoluments	<u>139,813</u>	<u>153,308</u>	<u>150,510</u>	<u>164,015</u>
III — Departmental Expenses					
102	Technical Services Agreement.....	11,670	13,420	12,892	13,072
149	General departmental expenses	26,488	32,070	30,695	32,103
	Total, Departmental Expenses	<u>38,158</u>	<u>45,490</u>	<u>43,587</u>	<u>45,175</u>
	Total, Recurrent Account.....	<u>177,971</u>	<u>198,798</u>	<u>194,097</u>	<u>209,190</u>
Capital Account					
I — Plant, Equipment and Works					
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	12,384	3,380	3,380	1,100
	Works.....	100	—	—	—
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works	<u>12,484</u>	<u>3,380</u>	<u>3,380</u>	<u>1,100</u>
II — Other Non-Recurrent					
700	General other non-recurrent	17,191	4,900	10,900	22,035
	Total, Other Non-Recurrent	<u>17,191</u>	<u>4,900</u>	<u>10,900</u>	<u>22,035</u>
	Total, Capital Account	<u>29,675</u>	<u>8,280</u>	<u>14,280</u>	<u>23,135</u>
	Total Expenditure	<u><u>207,646</u></u>	<u><u>207,078</u></u>	<u><u>208,377</u></u>	<u><u>232,325</u></u>

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2000–01 for the salaries and expenses of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department is \$232,325,000. This represents an increase of \$23,948,000 over the revised estimate for 1999–2000 and of \$24,679,000 on actual expenditure in 1998–99.

Recurrent Account

Personal Emoluments

2 Provision of \$164,015,000 for personal emoluments represents an increase of \$13,505,000 over the revised estimate for 1999–2000 and takes into account new posts likely to be created in 2000–01.

3 The establishment at 31 March 2000 will be 360 permanent posts. It is expected that 14 permanent posts will be created in 2000–01.

4 Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated powers create or delete non-directorate posts during 2000–01, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$145,346,000.

5 Provision of \$4,975,000 under *Subhead 002 Allowances* is for standard allowances.

6 Provision of \$78,000 under *Subhead 007 Job-related allowances* is for standard job-related allowances.

Departmental Expenses

7 Provision of \$13,072,000 under *Subhead 102 Technical Services Agreement* is to meet payments to Cable & Wireless HKT for services provided under the Technical Services Agreement.

8 Provision of \$32,103,000 under *Subhead 149 General departmental expenses* represents an increase of \$1,408,000 (4.6%) over the revised estimate for 1999–2000. This is mainly due to the increased provision for the promotion and further studies on energy consumption conservation and the additional requirements for the promotion of gas and electrical safety.

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

9 Provision of \$1,100,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents a decrease of \$2,280,000 (67.5%) against the revised estimate for 1999–2000. This is mainly due to the completion of the replacement works of halons fire extinguishing installations in various government buildings.

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Capital Account

Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.99	Revised estimated expenditure for 1999–2000	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
700		<i>General other non-recurrent</i>				
	692	Employment of international consultants to conduct studies of the two power companies.....	4,200	—	3,360	840
	693	Phase 2 pilot energy management opportunities implementation programme	6,000	—	2,000	4,000
	694	Consultancy study on quantitative risk assessment of LPG vehicles through tunnels in HK	950	—	665	285
	695	Consultancy study on the activities of the two power companies under the Scheme of Control Agreements (2000–01)	1,300	—	—	1,300
	696	Household Energy Consumption Survey on residential households in Hong Kong	1,200	—	—	1,200
	697	Pilot indoor air quality certification programme for government buildings	5,400	—	—	5,400
	698	Consultancy study on developing energy consumption indices for Hong Kong	5,800	—	—	5,800
	699	Hire of services to monitor the replacement programme of flueless gas water heaters	5,000	—	350	4,650
	700	Consultancy on interconnection capacity between Hong Kong's power companies.....	9,000	—	—	9,000
		Total.....	<u>38,850</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>6,375</u>	<u>32,475</u>