

Head 62 —HOUSING DEPARTMENT

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

Estimate 2000–01..... **\$486.9m**

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

	1998–99 (Actual)	1999–2000 (Approved)	1999–2000 (Revised)	2000–01 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	530.1	511.8 (–3.5%)	495.7 (–3.1%)	486.9 (–1.8%)

Aim

2 Acting on behalf of 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 Clearances of squatter areas, Temporary Housing Areas and Cottage Areas for development purpose were in active progress. Squatting activities were kept under tight control and any new squatting was suppressed in a timely manner. 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 The key performance measures in respect of this programme are:

Targets

	Target	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Plan)
screening of domestic clearees' rehousing eligibility after clearance announcement	not more than 2 months	100%	100%	100%
arrival time of staff at the scene upon receiving message of occurrence of natural disasters	within 1 hour	100%	100%	100%

Indicators

	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Estimate)
no. of people rehoused as a result of programmed squatter and unauthorised rooftop structure clearances or emergency clearances following natural disaster	4 500	4 500	10 000
squatter population	231 400	228 900	221 900

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	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Estimate)
urban	20 800	20 700	14 000
non-urban.....	210 600	208 200	207 900
no. of illegal structures demolished.....	2 000	1 700	2 500
no. of Temporary Housing Area residents rehoused.....	7 000	6 000	6 000
no. of Cottage Area residents rehoused †.....	—	300	1 800

† New indicator as from 2000

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000–01

5 The clearance of Diamond Hill Squatter Area to free land for public developments is in full swing. The clearances of Temporary Housing Areas and Cottage Areas are in progress.

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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)
Squatter and Temporary Housing Clearance and Squatter Control	530.1	511.8 (-3.5%)	495.7 (-3.1%)	486.9 (-1.8%)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2000-01 is \$8.8 million (1.8%) lower than the revised estimate for 1999-2000. This mainly reflects reduced requirement as a result of the deletion of posts and reduced operating expenses under the Enhanced Productivity Programme.

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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	\$ 000
Recurrent Account					
I — Personal Emoluments					
003	Recoverable salaries and allowances	4,630,481			
	<i>Deduct</i> reimbursements	<u><i>Cr.4,630,481</i></u>	—	—	—
	Total, Personal Emoluments	—	—	—	—
IV — Other Charges					
294	Clearance and squatter control	530,064	511,804	495,690	486,855
	Total, Other Charges	530,064	511,804	495,690	486,855
	Total, Recurrent Account	530,064	511,804	495,690	486,855
	Total Expenditure	<u>530,064</u>	<u>511,804</u>	<u>495,690</u>	<u>486,855</u>

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2000–01 for the expenses of those activities of the Housing Department that are funded from grants from General Revenue is \$486,855,000. This represents a decrease of \$8,835,000 against the revised estimate for 1999–2000 and of \$43,209,000 against actual expenditure in 1998–99.

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 \$4,630,481,000 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 2000–01. 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 \$486,855,000 under *Subhead 294 Clearance and squatter control* is for staff costs and other expenses incurred in clearing squatters and Temporary Housing Areas, preventing and controlling squatting and for expenses incurred in maintaining facilities provided by the Housing Department under the programme of improvements to squatter areas.