

Head 150 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: HOUSING BUREAU

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

Estimate 2001–02..... **\$43.1m**

Establishment ceiling 2001–02 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 48 non-directorate posts at 31 March 2001 rising by one post to 49 posts at 31 March 2002 **\$21.5m**

In addition there will be an estimated ten directorate posts at 31 March 2001 and at 31 March 2002.

Controlling Officer's Report

Programme

Housing

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

Detail

	1999–2000 (Actual)	2000–01 (Approved)	2000–01 (Revised)	2001–02 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	40.4	41.9 (+3.7%)	40.8 (–2.6%)	43.1 (+5.6%)

Aim

2 The policy objective is to achieve better housing for all. The specific aims comprise reduction in the number of inadequately housed people, assistance to households to gain access to adequate and affordable housing, and encouragement of home ownership in the community.

Brief Description

3 The Housing Bureau's main responsibility is to formulate strategic policies on the provision of housing in the public and private sectors, and to co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of these policies by government departments, the Hong Kong Housing Authority, the Hong Kong Housing Society and private developers. This involves:

- assessing housing demand regularly;
- monitoring the supply of land and supporting infrastructure for housing, and maintaining a mechanism for solving problems affecting flat production;
- creating the conditions to enable the private sector to make the fullest possible contribution towards meeting the demand for housing;
- monitoring the implementation of subsidised home ownership schemes and loan schemes to enable those in the relevant income groups to buy their own homes;
- monitoring the progress of providing public housing at reasonable rents to those who cannot afford any other type of housing; and
- devising initiatives to address the housing requirements of groups in special need.

4 It has met or is on schedule to meet all specific targets set for 2000–01, and has continued to make good progress in achieving its overall policy objective.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2001–02

5 During 2001–02, the bureau will:

- commission a survey of housing aspirations to be conducted by the Planning Department;
- continue to fast-track infrastructural projects to tie in with housing developments to meet long-term housing demand;
- discuss with the Housing Authority a rolled forward programme of reducing the production of subsidised home ownership flats, with a consequential increase in the number of home ownership loans to eligible households up to 2007–08;
- introduce the Landlord and Tenant (Consolidation) (Amendment) Bill 2001 into the Legislative Council;
- introduce the Sales Descriptions of Uncompleted Residential Properties Bill 2001 into the Legislative Council;
- complete an overall review of the merits of different subsidised home ownership schemes and loan schemes;

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- monitor the Housing Authority's efforts to accelerate the allocation of public rental housing to elderly singletons who wish to live by themselves with a view to reducing their average waiting time for allocation to two years by 2005;
- explore, in conjunction with the Housing Authority, the feasibility of providing the option of rental subsidy as an alternative to the actual allocation of public rental housing to eligible elderly applicants; and
- adjust the loan quota for singleton applicants under the Home Starter Loan Scheme in accordance with demand.

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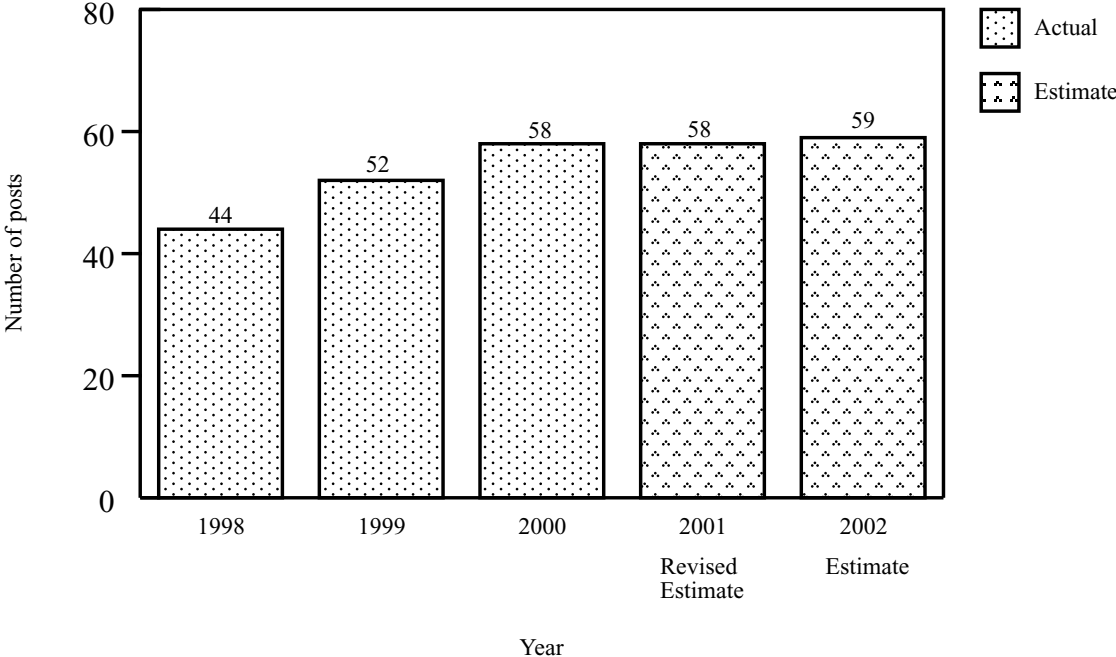
ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	1999–2000 (Actual) (\$m)	2000–01 (Approved) (\$m)	2000–01 (Revised) (\$m)	2001–02 (Estimate) (\$m)
Housing.....	40.4	41.9 (+3.7%)	40.8 (–2.6%)	43.1 (+5.6%)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2001–02 is \$2.3 million (5.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2000–01. This is mainly due to the redeployment of two posts from the Planning Department to strengthen the ability of the Housing Bureau to participate in housing-related planning studies and related issues, salary increments for existing staff, and the creation of a capital account block vote for conducting housing-related minor consultancy studies and surveys to assist in the regular reviews of housing policies and objectives, partly offset first by the deletion of one post upon completion of a time-limited project of setting up a computerised data base on housing information by end of March 2001 and, secondly, by reduced operating expenses under the Enhanced Productivity Programme.

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



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Sub-head (Code)		Actual expenditure 1999–2000	Approved estimate 2000–01	Revised estimate 2000–01	Estimate 2001–02
		\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$'000
Recurrent Account					
I — Personal Emoluments					
001	Salaries.....	32,811	34,910	34,698	36,376
002	Allowances.....	1,297	1,525	1,737	1,432
007	Job-related allowances.....	28	28	28	28
	Total, Personal Emoluments	<u>34,136</u>	<u>36,463</u>	<u>36,463</u>	<u>37,836</u>
III — Departmental Expenses					
149	General departmental expenses.....	4,475	4,620	4,370	4,229
	Total, Departmental Expenses	<u>4,475</u>	<u>4,620</u>	<u>4,370</u>	<u>4,229</u>
	Total, Recurrent Account	38,611	41,083	40,833	42,065
Capital Account					
II — Other Non-Recurrent					
838	Minor consultancy studies (block vote).....	—	—	—	1,000
	General other non-recurrent.....	1,753	800	—	—
	Total, Other Non-Recurrent.....	<u>1,753</u>	<u>800</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	Total, Capital Account.....	<u>1,753</u>	<u>800</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	Total Expenditure	<u><u>40,364</u></u>	<u><u>41,883</u></u>	<u><u>40,833</u></u>	<u><u>43,065</u></u>

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

Estimate of the amount required in 2001–02 for the salaries and expenses of the Housing Bureau is \$43,065,000. This represents an increase of \$2,232,000 over the revised estimate for 2000–01 and of \$2,701,000 over actual expenditure in 1999–2000.

Recurrent Account

Personal Emoluments

2 Provision of \$37,836,000 for personal emoluments represents an increase of \$1,373,000 over the revised estimate for 2000–01.

3 The establishment at 31 March 2001 will be 58 permanent posts. It is expected that there will be net creation of one permanent post in 2001–02.

4 Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated powers create or delete non-directorate posts during 2001–02, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$21,499,000.

5 Provision of \$1,432,000 under *Subhead 002 Allowances* is for standard allowances and the following non-standard allowance —

	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Master Pay Scale point</i>	<i>Rate per month† \$</i>
consolidated overtime allowance for Chauffeur grade	Chauffeur	5	5,240
		6	5,570
		7	5,940
		8	6,330
		9	6,740
		10	7,145

† These rates are payable for the first 1–100 hours overtime per month. Overtime performed in excess of 100 hours will be compensated at 1% of the monthly rate per hour.

The decrease of \$305,000 (17.6%) against the revised estimate for 2000–01 is mainly due to reduced requirement for acting allowance and more stringent control over the use of overtime allowance.

6 Provision of \$28,000 under *Subhead 007 Job-related allowances* is for standard job-related allowances.

Departmental Expenses

7 Provision of \$4,229,000 under *Subhead 149 General departmental expenses* represents a decrease of \$141,000 (3.2%) against the revised estimate for 2000–01. This is mainly due to reduced operating expenses under the Enhanced Productivity Programme.

Capital Account

Other Non-Recurrent

8 Provision of \$1,000,000 under *Subhead 838 Minor consultancy studies (block vote)* is for engaging consultants to conduct housing-related minor studies and surveys.