

Head 5 — FINES, FORFEITURES AND PENALTIES

Details of Revenue

Sub-head (Code)	Actual revenue 2001–02	Original estimate 2002–03	Revised estimate 2002–03	Estimate 2003–04
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
010 Court fines and statutory penalties	453,648	477,668	423,399	441,438
020 Forfeitures	62,441	52,381	48,315	29,760
030 Fixed penalty system (Traffic Contraventions) ..	221,442	227,983	169,657	169,597
040 Fixed penalty system (Criminal Proceedings) ...	185,435	191,868	172,986	172,986
050 Payments by civil servants	2,926	2,482	2,454	2,223
Total	<u>925,892</u>	<u>952,382</u>	<u>816,811</u>	<u>816,004</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 0.6% of general revenue in 2002–03.

Underlying Changes in Revenue Yield

The **2002–03** revised estimate of \$816,811,000 is a net decrease of \$135,571,000 (14.2%) against the original estimate.

Under *Subhead 010 Court fines and statutory penalties* the decrease of \$54,269,000 (11.4%) is mainly due to the decrease in the number of court cases involving imposition of fines.

Under *Subhead 030 Fixed penalty system (Traffic Contraventions)* the decrease of \$58,326,000 (25.6%) is mainly due to the lower than anticipated number of fixed penalty tickets issued for traffic offences.

The **2003–04** estimate of \$816,004,000 is a net decrease of \$807,000 (0.1%) against the revised estimate for 2002–03.

Under *Subhead 020 Forfeitures* the decrease of \$18,555,000 (38.4%) is mainly due to the anticipated decrease in revenue from forfeiture cases.