

Head 139 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: HEALTH, WELFARE AND FOOD BUREAU (FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE BRANCH)

Controlling officer: the Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Food and Environmental Hygiene) will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2007–08 **\$89.9m**

Establishment ceiling 2007–08 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 29 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2007 rising by four posts to 33 posts as at 31 March 2008..... **\$14.6m**

In addition, there will be an estimated six directorate posts as at 31 March 2007 rising by one post to seven posts as at 31 March 2008.

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

- | | |
|---|---|
| Programme (1) Director of Bureau's Office | This programme contributes to Policy Area 27: Intra-Governmental Services (Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food). |
| Programme (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety | This programme contributes to Policy Area 2: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety (Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food). |
| Programme (3) Environmental Hygiene | This programme contributes to Policy Area 32: Environmental Hygiene (Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food). |

Detail

Programme (1): Director of Bureau's Office

	2005–06 (Actual)	2006–07 (Original)	2006–07 (Revised)	2007–08 (Estimate)
Financial provision# (\$m)	5.9	5.9	5.9 (—)	5.9 (—)

(or same as
2006–07 Original)

Following the division of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) into two branches with effect from 2 May 2006, the provision for this programme is transferred from the "Director of Bureau's Office" programme under the former Head 149—Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau and reflected under Head 139 with effect from 2007–08. The figures for 2005–06 and 2006–07 represent the actual expenditure, original estimate and revised estimate of the programme under Head 149.

Aim

- 2 The aim is to ensure the smooth operation of the Office of the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food.

Brief Description

- 3 The Office of the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food is responsible for providing administrative support to the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food in carrying out his duties. The work includes the planning, co-ordination and implementation of all arrangements for the Secretary's public, media and community functions. Generally, the effectiveness of the work of the HWFB is reflected in the extent to which the Office of the Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food achieves the objectives of this programme. The Office is operating smoothly and the aim has been achieved.

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Programme (2): Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

	2005–06 (Actual)	2006–07 (Original)	2006–07 (Revised)	2007–08 (Estimate)
Financial provision# (\$m)	9.8	13.3	15.3 (+15.0%)	63.4 (+314.4%)
				(or +376.7% on 2006–07 Original)

Following the division of the HWFB into two branches with effect from 2 May 2006, the provision for this programme is transferred from the “Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety” programme under the former Head 149—Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau and reflected under Head 139 with effect from 2007–08. The figures for 2005–06 and 2006–07 represent the actual expenditure, original estimate and revised estimate of the programme under Head 149.

Aim

4 The aim is to formulate and oversee implementation of policies to ensure that food available for human consumption is safe, to respond to food incidents effectively, to prevent the introduction and spread of zoonotic diseases and diseases in animals and plants, to facilitate the sustainable development of the agricultural and fisheries industries, and to oversee the efficient operation of government wholesale marketing facilities for fresh food produce.

Brief Description

5 The Branch’s main responsibility under this programme is to formulate and co-ordinate policies and programmes relating to the above activities. It made good progress in achieving the targets set for 2006.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007–08

6 During 2007–08, the Branch will:

- collaborate with the Mainland Authorities to explore the feasibility of applying information technology to enhance the traceability of food;
- introduce a nutrition labelling scheme for prepackaged food;
- introduce legislation to strengthen control over imported poultry eggs and farmed aquatic products;
- continue to develop proposals to prevent avian influenza outbreak;
- continue to review and update the existing standards on food safety having regard to international practice and local needs;
- introduce legislation to strengthen control over the registration and safe use of pesticides;
- continue to promote the sustainable development of local agriculture and fisheries industry, e.g. through promoting organic farming and Accredited Fish Farm Scheme; and
- conduct a review of the long term goals and direction for the sustainable development of the Hong Kong fishing industry.

Programme (3): Environmental Hygiene

	2005–06 (Actual)	2006–07 (Original)	2006–07 (Revised)	2007–08 (Estimate)
Financial provision# (\$m)	10.5	11.5	13.0 (+13.0%)	20.6 (+58.5%)
				(or +79.1% on 2006–07 Original)

Following the division of the HWFB into two branches with effect from 2 May 2006, the provision for this programme is transferred from the “Environmental Hygiene” programme under the former Head 149—Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau and reflected under Head 139 with effect from 2007–08. The figures for 2005–06 and 2006–07 represent the actual expenditure, original estimate and revised estimate of the programme under Head 149.

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Aim

7 The aim is to provide quality environmental hygiene services in the territory, strengthen the management of public markets, minimise the risks and threats caused to public health by pest and other nuisances, enhance the effectiveness of regulatory control over food premises, and promote public involvement in the upkeep of personal and environmental hygiene standards.

Brief Description

8 The Branch's main responsibility under this programme is to formulate and co-ordinate policies and programmes relating to the above activities. It made good progress in achieving the targets set for 2006.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007–08

9 During 2007–08, the Branch will:

- introduce legislative amendments to prohibit the abstraction of seawater from specified areas for keeping live seafood for human consumption;
- invite tender to develop a Poultry Slaughtering and Processing Plant;
- introduce legislation to regulate the Poultry Slaughtering and Processing Plant;
- implement measures to streamline food business licensing procedures and framework;
- consider ways to improve the occupancy and viability of public markets;
- review the liquor licensing policy; and
- implement measures to meet the increasing demand for columbarium and crematorium facilities.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2005–06 (Actual) (\$m)	2006–07 (Original) (\$m)	2006–07 (Revised) (\$m)	2007–08 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Director of Bureau’s Office	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9
(2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety	9.8	13.3	15.3	63.4
(3) Environmental Hygiene	10.5	11.5	13.0	20.6
	26.2	30.7	34.2 (+11.4%)	89.9 (+162.9%)
				(or +192.8% on 2006–07 Original)

Note: The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau split into the Food and Environmental Hygiene Branch and the Health and Welfare Branch with effect from 2 May 2006. The provisions for the above programmes are transferred from the former Head 149—Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau and reflected under Head 139 with effect from 2007–08. For comparison purpose, the actual expenses for 2005–06 and the original and revised estimates for 2006–07 represent the provisions of the relevant programmes under Head 149.

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2007–08 is the same as the revised estimate for 2006–07.

Programme (2)

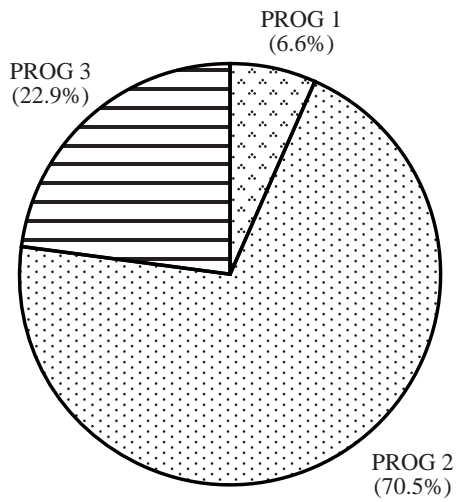
Provision for 2007–08 is \$48.1 million (314.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2006–07. This is mainly due to the additional provision to strengthen food safety protection, prevent zoonotic diseases and promote the sustainable development of local fisheries industry and other increase in operating expenses. There will be a net creation of five posts in 2007–08.

Programme (3)

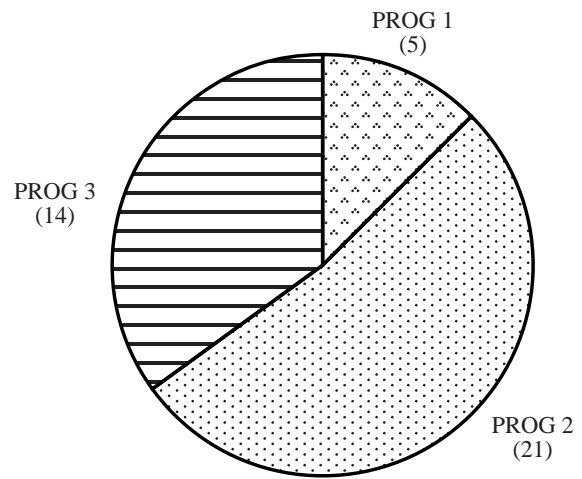
Provision for 2007–08 is \$7.6 million (58.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2006–07. This is mainly due to the additional provision to prepare for the development of the Poultry Slaughtering and Processing Plant and strengthen support to other environmental hygiene-related initiatives and increase in operating expenses.

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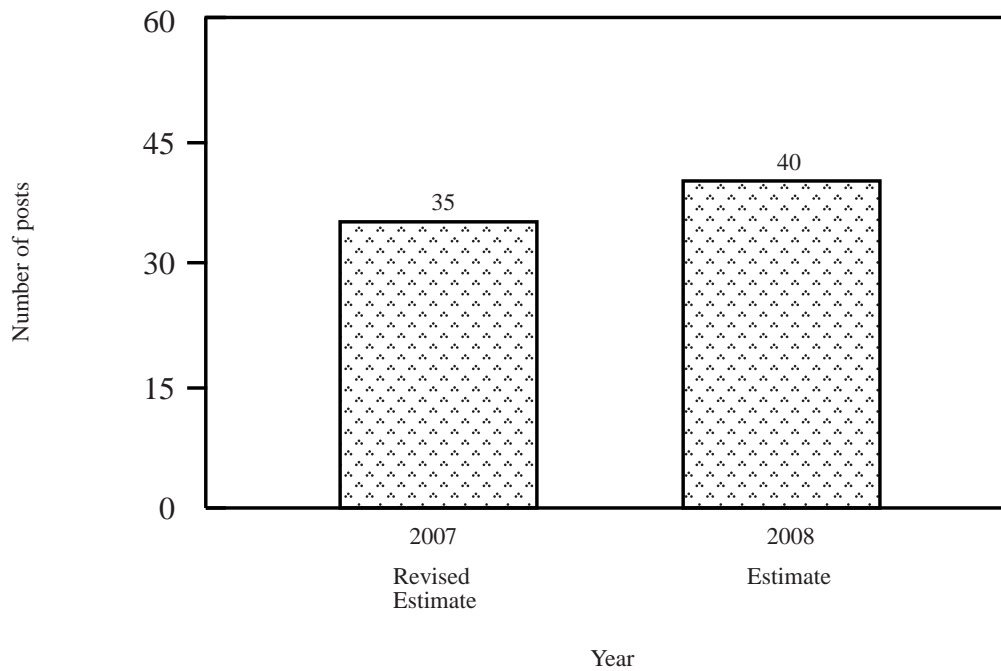
Allocation of provision to programmes (2007-08)



Staff by programme (as at 31 March 2008)



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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2005-06	Approved estimate 2006-07	Revised estimate 2006-07	Estimate 2007-08
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Operating Account				
Recurrent				
000	Operational expenses.....	—	—	—
		—	—	89,934
	Total, Recurrent	—	—	89,934
	Total, Operating Account.....	—	—	89,934
<hr/>				
	Total Expenditure.....	—	—	89,934
		<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>89,934</u>

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2007–08 for the salaries and expenses of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Branch is \$89,934,000.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$89,934,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Branch.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2007 will be 35 permanent posts. It is expected that there will be an increase of five permanent posts in 2007–08. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2007–08, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$14,635,000.

4 An analysis of the financial provision under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is as follows:

	2005–06 (Actual) (\$'000)	2006–07 (Original) (\$'000)	2006–07 (Revised) (\$'000)	2007–08 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries.....	—	—	—	24,358
- Allowances.....	—	—	—	1,602
- Job-related allowances.....	—	—	—	2
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	—	—	—	41
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	—	—	—	76
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses.....	—	—	—	63,855
	—	—	—	89,934