

Head 139 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: FOOD AND HEALTH BUREAU (FOOD BRANCH)

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

Estimate 2008–09..... **\$65.4m**

Establishment ceiling 2008–09 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 33 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2008 and rising by four posts to 37 posts as at 31 March 2009 **\$17.4m**

In addition, there will be an estimated seven directorate posts as at 31 March 2008 and as at 31 March 2009.

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

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

Detail

Programme (1): Director of Bureau's Office

	2006–07 (Actual)	2007–08 (Original)	2007–08 (Revised)	2008–09 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	5.9#	5.9	6.2 (+5.1%)	11.9 (+91.9%)
				(or +101.7% on 2007–08 Original)

Following the division of the former Health, Welfare and Food Bureau into two branches with effect from 2 May 2006, the provision of this programme has been transferred from the "Director of Bureau's Office" programme under the former Head 149—Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau since 2007–08. The figure for 2006–07 represents the actual expenditure of the programme under Head 149.

Aim

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

Brief Description

3 The Office of the Secretary for Food and Health is responsible for providing support to the Secretary for Food and Health in undertaking political work. This includes the support provided by the Under Secretary and the Political Assistant. The Office is also responsible for providing administrative support to the Secretary for Food and Health 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.

Programme (2): Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

	2006–07 (Actual)	2007–08 (Original)	2007–08 (Revised)	2008–09 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	11.9#	63.4	19.5 (–69.2%)	33.7 (+72.8%)
				(or –46.8% on 2007–08 Original)

Following the division of the former Health, Welfare and Food Bureau into two branches with effect from 2 May 2006, the provision of this programme has been transferred from the "Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety" programme under the former Head 149—Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau since 2007–08. The figure for 2006–07 represents the actual expenditure of the programme under Head 149.

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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 2007.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008–09

6 During 2008–09, the Branch will:

- introduce a Food Safety Bill to incorporate new food safety control tools;
- introduce legislation to strengthen control over pesticide residues in food;
- continue to collaborate with the Mainland Authorities to explore the feasibility of applying information technology to enhance the traceability of food;
- 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
- continue to study the long term goals and direction for the sustainable development of the Hong Kong fishing industry.

Programme (3): Environmental Hygiene

	2006–07 (Actual)	2007–08 (Original)	2007–08 (Revised)	2008–09 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	10.4#	20.6	18.9 (–8.3%)	19.8 (+4.8%)
				(or –3.9% on 2007–08 Original)

Following the division of the former Health, Welfare and Food Bureau into two branches with effect from 2 May 2006, the provision of this programme has been transferred from the “Environmental Hygiene” programme under the former Head 149—Government Secretariat: Health, Welfare and Food Bureau since 2007–08. The figure for 2006–07 represents the actual expenditure of the programme under Head 149.

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 2007.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008–09

9 During 2008–09, the Branch will:

- continue to develop a Poultry Slaughtering and Processing Plant;
- formulate measures to further streamline food business licensing, e.g. through introduction of a composite licence/permit scheme for the manufacture and sale of various types of ready-to-eat food items;
- consider ways to improve the occupancy and viability of public markets;

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- review the hawker licensing policy;
- 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	2006-07 (Actual) (\$m)	2007-08 (Original) (\$m)	2007-08 (Revised) (\$m)	2008-09 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Director of Bureau's Office.....	5.9	5.9	6.2	11.9
(2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety	11.9	63.4	19.5	33.7
(3) Environmental Hygiene.....	10.4	20.6	18.9	19.8
	28.2	89.9	44.6 (-50.4%)	65.4 (+46.6%)
				(or -27.3% on 2007-08 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2008-09 is \$5.7 million (91.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2007-08. This is mainly due to the increased provisions for salary and general departmental expenses arising from the creation of one position of Under Secretary and one position of Political Assistant, both under the Political Appointment System, and other related expenses for administrative support and creation of one post in 2008-09.

Programme (2)

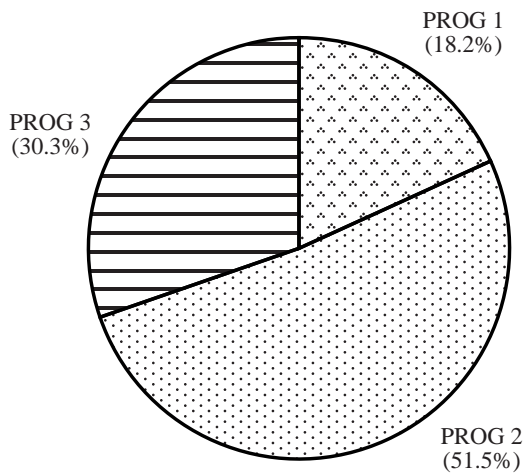
Provision for 2008-09 is \$14.2 million (72.8%) higher than the revised estimate for 2007-08. This is mainly due to creation of two posts for strengthening support for food safety control, additional provisions to strengthen food safety protection and prevent zoonotic diseases and other increases in operating expenses.

Programme (3)

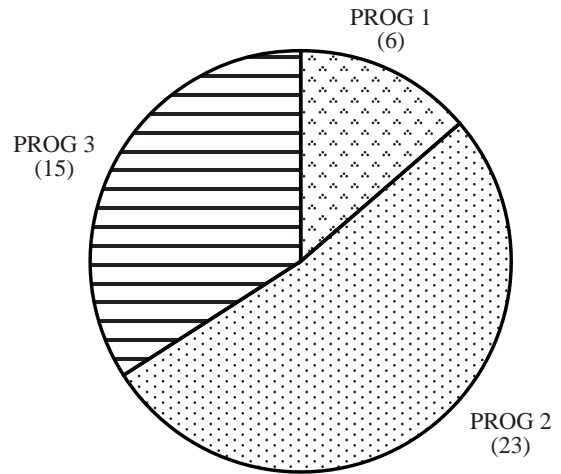
Provision for 2008-09 is \$0.9 million (4.8%) higher than the revised estimate for 2007-08. This is mainly due to creation of one post for providing support in the planning and development of a Poultry Slaughtering and Processing Plant.

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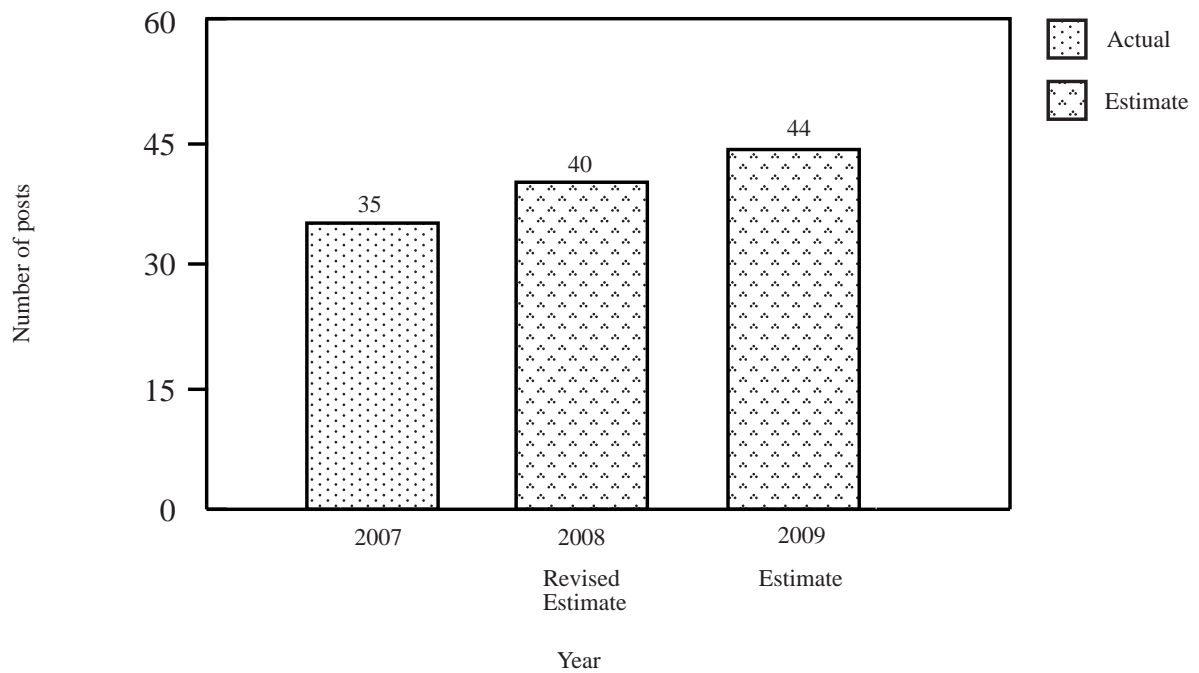
*Allocation of provision
to programmes
(2008-09)*



*Staff by programme
(as at 31 March 2009)*



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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2006-07	Approved estimate 2007-08	Revised estimate 2007-08	Estimate 2008-09	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	—	89,934	44,607	65,423
	Total, Recurrent	—	89,934	44,607	65,423
	Total, Operating Account	—	89,934	44,607	65,423
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	Total Expenditure	—	89,934	44,607	65,423

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2008–09 for the salaries and expenses of the Food Branch is \$65,423,000. This represents an increase of \$20,816,000 over the revised estimate for 2007–08.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$65,423,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Food Branch. The increase of \$20,816,000 (46.7%) over the revised estimate for 2007–08 is mainly due to the provisions for salary and general departmental expenses arising from the creation of one position of Under Secretary and one position of Political Assistant, both under the Political Appointment System, and other related expenses for administrative support and additional provisions to strengthen food safety protection and prevent zoonotic diseases and creation of four posts in 2008–09.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2008 will be 40 permanent posts. It is expected that there will be an increase of four permanent posts in 2008–09. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2008–09, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$17,386,000.

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

	2006–07 (Actual) (\$'000)	2007–08 (Original) (\$'000)	2007–08 (Revised) (\$'000)	2008–09 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	—	24,358	22,500	26,226
- Allowances	—	1,602	2,000	2,362
- Job-related allowances	—	2	2	2
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	—	41	55	84
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	—	76	50	47
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	—	63,855	20,000	36,702
	—	89,934	44,607	65,423