Controlling officer: the Government Chemist will account for expenditure under this Head.	
Estimate 2009–10	\$319.4m
Establishment ceiling 2009–10 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 410 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2009 rising by six posts to 416 posts as at 31 March 2010	\$186.8m
In addition, there will be an estimated six directorate posts as at 31 March 2009 rising by one post to seven posts as at 31 March 2010.	
Commitment balance	\$32.5m

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

Programme (1) Statutory TestingThis programme contributes to Policy Area 2: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety (Secretary for Food and Health) and

Policy Area 15: Health (Secretary for Food and Health).

Programme (2) Advisory and Investigative
Services

This programme contributes to Policy Area 2: Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food Safety (Secretary for Food and Health),

Policy Area 9: Internal Security (Secretary for Security), Policy Area 23: Environmental Protection, Conservation, Power and Sustainable Development (Secretary for the Environment) and Policy Area 32: Environmental Hygiene (Secretary for Food

and Health).

Programme (3) Forensic Science Services

This programme contributes to Policy Area 9: Internal Security

(Secretary for Security).

Detail

Programme (1): Statutory Testing

	2007–08	2008–09	2008–09	2009–10
	(Actual)	(Original)	(Revised)	(Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	109.7	144.8	142.8 (-1.4%)	131.9 (-7.6%)

(or -8.9% on 2008–09 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to carry out statutory functions as referee analyst under a number of ordinances and regulations.

Brief Description

- 3 The Government Chemist discharges statutory functions as referee analyst under various ordinances and regulations. The work involves the analysis of food products for regulatory compliance, the examination of western and Chinese medicines for registration and quality control, the classification of dangerous goods for compliance with the Dangerous Goods Ordinance, the testing of dutiable commodities for tariff classification, the assessment of toys, children's products and consumer articles for health and safety hazards, the determination of tar and nicotine yields in cigarettes, the assay of gold and platinum articles for fineness, the analysis of consumer goods in relation to the fitness with their trade descriptions and the verification of products and equipment for compliance with the Weights and Measures Ordinance. The Government Laboratory provides 24-hour on-call service to assist the Fire Services Department at scenes of accidents involving hazardous chemicals.
- 4 In 2008, Government Laboratory started to outsource some of the routine food testing work to commercial testing laboratories. The resources released from this outsourcing exercise were deployed to take up test method development and new testing work arising from amendments of food legislation. In another area of health concern, the Laboratory continued to provide full support for the investigation into the cases of adverse reaction arising from the consumption of proprietary Chinese medicines found containing western drug ingredients, and intoxication incidents related to substitution or contamination of herbs in Chinese herbal medicines.

5 The key performance measures in respect of statutory testing are:

Targets

	Target	2007 (Actual)	2008 (Actual)	2009 (Plan)
Testing of:				
urgent samples relating to food incidents				
within two working days (%) Ω	100	N.A.	N.A.	100
samples relating to food poisoning				
within one working day (%)	100	100	100	$N.A.\Omega$
other food samples within reporting time				
averaging 19 working days (%)# Ω	95	97	98	95
food samples for regulatory compliance				
purposes within target reporting time				
averaging 19 working days (%)#	95	97	98	$N.A.\Omega$
food complaint cases within 25 working				
days (%)	82‡	80	83	82
pharmaceuticals (quality control) within				
reporting time averaging 14 working	0.5	0.0	00	0.7
days (%)#\$	95	98	99	95
pharmaceuticals (registration) within				
reporting time averaging 30 working	00	0.1	0.4	00
days (%)#φ	90	91	94	90
Chinese medicines within reporting time	05	95	95	05
averaging 30 working days (%)#\phi	95	93	93	95
dangerous goods within reporting time	95	98	98	95
averaging 14 working days (%)#φ dutiable and other commodities within	93	98	98	95
reporting time averaging ten working				
days (%)#\$	95	99	99	95
toys and children's products within	93	99	99	73
reporting time averaging 15 working				
days (%)#\$	95	97	98	95
consumer goods within reporting time	,,	71	70	70
averaging 35 working days (%)#φ	95	99	99	95
non-pharmaceutical consumer goods	,,,			,,
(trade descriptions) within				
reporting time averaging 35 working				
days (%)#Δ	90	N.A.	N.A.	90

- Ω From 2009 onwards, the previous targets of "samples relating to food poisoning within one working day" and "food samples for regulatory compliance purposes within target reporting time averaging 19 working days" are re-grouped into two new targets to give a clearer and more precise description and indication of the reporting time and Target (in percentage) for processing food samples involving different levels of urgency and complexity.
- Different samples require different analytical procedures, thus different reporting time applies. The quoted number of working days required represents an average of reporting time for the different types of samples/ test requests within the category. The Target (in percentage) is the total compliance rate of the concerned samples/ test requests against their specific targets within the category.
- Revised description of previous targets to better define the nature of the samples tested and how the target is
- The target has been revised from 80 per cent to 82 per cent with effect from 2009.
- † The target has been revised from 80 pc; cent to 62 pc; cent Δ New target as from 2009 for samples relating to trade descriptions.

Indicators

The key indicators for statutory testing are the numbers of tests performed on the various categories of services.

	2007 (Actual)	2008 (Actual)	2009 (Estimate)
Tests performed	,	,	,
urgent samples relating to food incidents¶	75	3 951	$N.A.\nabla$
other food samples¶	158 660	123 055	163 000
food complaint samples	26 469	16 556	16 000
pharmaceuticals (quality control)	20 750	24 540	23 000
pharmaceuticals (registration)	20 139	20 906	20 000

	2007 (Actual)	2008 (Actual)	2009 (Estimate)
Chinese medicines	53 442	70 260	60 000
dangerous goods	4 928	3 411	5 000
dutiable and other commoditiesa	20 612	15 343	20 000
non-pharmaceutical consumer goods (trade			
descriptions) α	4 305	2 167	4 500
cigarette samples	12 960	13 560	13 000
toys and children's products	11 901	17 731	18 500
consumer goods	14 464	14 633	16 000

- ¶ From 2009 onwards, the previous indicator of "food samples for regulatory compliance purposes" is re-grouped into two new indicators, viz "urgent samples relating to food incidents" and "other food samples" to better reflect the different levels of urgency and work complexity involved.
- ∇ As the testing requirement for urgent food samples relating to food incidents fluctuated widely in 2007 and 2008, it is difficult to estimate either the occurrence of this type of food incidents or the number of tests required in 2009.
- α "Non-pharmaceutical consumer goods (trade descriptions)" is a new indicator as from 2009 for samples relating to trade descriptions. These samples were previously grouped under the indicators of "dutiable and other commodities" under Programme (1) and "miscellaneous: other samples" under Programme (2). The number of tests conducted for these indicators in 2007 have been revised to reflect the new categorisation.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2009-10

- 6 During 2009–10, the Laboratory will:
- continue to provide analytical support to other government departments for further enhancement of food safety efforts in Hong Kong;
- provide professional advice and develop testing methods in support of the legislative amendments on the control
 of the residues of pesticides and veterinary drugs in food;
- outsource some of the routine food testing work to the commercial sector so as to better utilise the resources in developing and performing new tests regarding legislative amendments;
- provide analytical support to further strengthen the regulatory system for Chinese medicines and continue to participate in the development of the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards;
- continue to provide analytical support for ensuring the safety of toys and children's products and other consumer goods;
- provide professional advisory and analytical services to support the enforcement of the various new and amended Orders / Regulations under the Trade Descriptions Ordinance. The services will cover analysis and authenticity tests on consumer goods, in particular those related to valuable goods such as jewellery, dried seafood products and Chinese medicinal products where their authenticity is of public concern; and
- continue to develop testing methods to cater for the implementation of the Dangerous Goods (Amendment) Ordinance 2002.

Programme (2): Advisory and Investigative Services

	2007–08 (Actual)	2008–09 (Original)	2008–09 (Revised)	2009–10 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	61.1	66.6	68.5 (+2.9%)	62.0 (-9.5%)
				(or -6.9% on 2008–09 Original)

Aim

7 The aim is to provide a wide range of primarily chemical testing and advisory services to other government departments and public institutions.

Brief Description

- 8 The Laboratory provides comprehensive analytical and advisory services to the Government in the management and monitoring of the environment and in the enforcement of various pollution control measures. Chemical testing of air, water and waste samples for a variety of pollution indicators constitutes the main activity under this programme. Analytical support is provided to the Hong Kong Observatory's Environmental Radiation Monitoring Programme as well as the Daya Bay Contingency Plan. Other activities include the examination of seepage and swimming pool water samples for the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, analysis of samples related to evaluation of exposure to occupational hazards for the Labour Department, testing of government supplies for conformity to tender specifications and identifying products made from endangered species.
- 9 In 2008, the Laboratory continued to render analytical support and professional advice to the Government in improving the quality of the environment of Hong Kong and engage in scientific research to further extend its analytical capabilities in environmental analysis. In addition to its routine commitments, the Laboratory was actively involved in various environmental impact studies and ad-hoc projects including the analysis of environmental samples for organic pollutants under the Toxic Substances Monitoring Programme. To support the implementation of the Air Pollution Control (Volatile Organic Compounds) Regulation, the Laboratory has been providing analytical services for determining the content of volatile organic compounds in regulated products including architectural paints/coatings, printing inks and consumer products. In addition, the preparation for the testing of biodiesel was underway. The Laboratory also provided over 200 pieces of professional advice relating to over 700 items for classification under the Dangerous Goods Ordinance and 60 pieces of advice relating to over 150 items supporting implementation of the Chemical Weapons (Convention) Ordinance and control of strategic commodities.
 - 10 The key performance measures in respect of advisory and investigative services are:

Targets

95
96
97
0.0
96
95
93
97
)
95
75
93
70
96
90

[#] Different samples require different analytical procedures, thus different reporting time applies. The quoted number of working days required represents an average of reporting time for the different types of samples/ test requests within the category. The Target (in percentage) is the total compliance rate of the concerned samples/ test requests against their specific targets within the category.

Revised description of previous targets to better define the nature of the samples tested and how the target is

- The reporting time was averaging 38 working days before 2008.
- The target has been revised from 90 per cent to 93 per cent with effect from 2008.
- The target has been revised from 95 per cent to 96 per cent with effect from 2008.

Indicators

The key indicators for advisory and investigative services are the numbers of tests performed on the various categories of services.

	2007	2008	2009
	(Actual)	(Actual)	(Estimate)
Tests performed			
air pollution monitoring samplesΨ	66 555	69 797	67 000
air pollution samples for litigation purposesΨ	2 924	2 542	3 000
field investigation (air pollution) samplesΨ	464	444	450
water quality monitoring samplesΨ	123 825	132 559	127 000
environmental waste monitoring samplesΨ	15 477	13 193	13 000
environmental waste samples for litigation purposesΨ	133	180	200
pesticides formulation samples	62	432	200
seepage and swimming pool water samples	20 773	19 251	23 000
miscellaneous			
radioactivity monitoring samples	4 389	4 381	4 700
other samplesΦ	8 964	8 429	10 500

- Ψ Revised description of previous indicators to better define the nature of the samples tested.
- Φ A new indicator of "Non-pharmaceutical consumer goods (trade descriptions)" under Programme (1) is set from 2009 for samples relating to trade descriptions. These samples were previously grouped under the indicators of "dutiable and other commodities" under Programme (1) and "miscellaneous: other samples" under

Programme (2). The number of tests conducted for these indicators in 2007 have been revised to reflect the new categorisation.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2009-10

- 11 During 2009–10, the Laboratory will:
- continue to provide analytical services in support of the implementation of the Air Pollution Control (Volatile Organic Compounds) Regulation and the Air Pollution Control (Motor Vehicle Fuel) Regulation;
- provide analytical service for the implementation of motor vehicle biodiesel specifications; and
- provide support to government departments in pursuing action items proposed under the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

Programme (3): Forensic Science Services

	2007–08 (Actual)	2008–09 (Original)	2008–09 (Revised)	2009–10 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	107.9	117.6	121.0 (+2.9%)	125.5 (+3.7%)
				(or +6.7% on 2008–09 Original)

Aim

12 The aim is to provide comprehensive and unbiased forensic science services to the criminal justice system.

Brief Description

- 13 The Laboratory provides comprehensive forensic science services to law enforcement departments, which include mainly the Hong Kong Police Force, the Customs and Excise Department, the Immigration Department and the Independent Commission Against Corruption. The services are grouped into two main work areas: criminalistics and quality management; and drugs, toxicology and documents. A 24-hour service is also provided for the scientific examination of crime scenes. It covers general crime scenes and scenes requiring specialist knowledge, such as fire investigation, traffic accident reconstruction, blood pattern analysis and illicit drug manufacturing.
- 14 Additionally, the screening and monitoring, through urine testing (urinalysis), of the drug-abuse behaviour of persons under imprisonment, rehabilitation or probation is conducted for the Department of Health (Methadone Maintenance Scheme), the Social Welfare Department, the Correctional Services Department, the Hong Kong Police Force and other organisations requiring this service. In support of the Government's reinvigorated policy in combating the youth drug abuse problem, it can be expected that the demand for urinalysis, which has shown phenomenal growth in 2008, will further increase.

15 The key performance measures in respect of the forensic science services are:

Targets

	Target	2007 (Actual)	2008 (Actual)	2009 (Plan)
Cases for: biochemical grouping (DNA profiling) -				
non-complicated cases completed	0.0	0.1	00	0.0
within 88 working days (%)@‡	90	81	98	90
routine cases (working day)Λ‡	88	87	38	N.A.@
complicated cases completed	00	70	0.6	0.0
within 154 working days (%)@	90	72	96	90
complicated cases (working day)Λ	154	176	97	N.A.@
DNA database (DNA profiling)				
completed within 22 working	00	00	0.2	00
days (%)@	90	99	93	90
DNA database (DNA	22	21	20	N.A.@
profiling) (working day)\(\Lambda\)	22	21	20	11.A.W
parentage testing (DNA profiling) completed within 22 working				
days (%)@ Δ	90	86	90	90
parentage testing (DNA	70	00	70	70
profiling) (working day) $\Delta\Delta$	22	22	20	N.A.@
trace evidence completed within	22	22	20	111111
66 working days (%)@	90	81	95	90
trace evidence (working day)\(\Lambda\)	66	66	58	N.A.@
accident reconstruction completed within			•	1 (11 24 (11)
66 working days (%)@	90	80	94	90
accident reconstruction (working day)Λ	66	66	50	N.A.@
illicit drug seizures completed within				O
11 working days (%)@β	90	88	84	90
routine illicit drug				
seizures (working day) Λβ	11	11	11	N.A.@
major illicit drug seizures and				0
manufacturing completed within 44				
working days (%)@φ	90	69	90	90
other illegal drug activities completed				
within 120 working days (%)@φ	90	79	88	90
major drug seizures and				
manufacturing (working day)Λφ	44	57	49	N.A.@
analytical toxicology completed within	0.5		7 0	0.7
33 working days (%)@	85	75 2.5	78	85
analytical toxicology (working day)Λ	33	35	34	N.A.@
drug urinalysis -				
methadone clinics completed within	00	0.5	100	00
11 working days (%)@methadone clinics (working day)Λ	90	95	100	90
judicial-confirmation completed	11	9	9	N.A.@
within 22 working days (%)@	85	98	80	85
judicial-confirmation	83	90	80	03
(working day) Λ	22	20	22	N.A.@
drink-driving completed within	22	20	22	11.A.W
11 working days (%)@	90	89	93	90
drink-driving (working day)Λ	11	11	11	N.A@
handwriting examination completed	11	11	11	11.71(0)
within 66 working days (%)@	85	67	77	85
handwriting examination (working day) Λ	66	84	69	N.A@
counterfeiting/forgery completed within		0.	0,	1 (12 2 (10)
33 working days (%)@	90	84	87	90
counterfeiting/forgery (working day)\(\Lambda\)	33	26	26	N.A.@
express counterfeiting/forgery service		-	-	
completed within one working				
day (%)@	99	98	97	99
express counterfeiting/forgery service				
(working day)Λ	1	1	1	N.A.@
				_

- @ From 2009 onwards, the targets are re-defined to be the percentage of completed cases whose individual casecompletion time does not exceed a specified number of working day(s), instead of a targeted case-completion time (in working days) which is expected to be met in 80 per cent of the examined cases, in order to better reflect the work performance of the forensic services.
- The previous target of "routine cases" under "biochemical grouping (DNA profiling)" has been re-named as "non-complicated cases completed within 88 working days" from 2009 as a contrasting term to the other "complicated cases"
- Λ Previous targets for individual categories were defined as the targeted case-completion time (in working days) which is expected to be met in 80 per cent of the examined cases.
- The figures represent the number of working days lapsed between the reception by the Laboratory of samples for genetic testing and the issuing of genetic data after completion of DNA analysis of these samples within the Laboratory.
- The previous target of "routine illicit drug seizures" has been re-named as "illicit drug seizures completed within 11 working days" from 2009 for simplicity.

 From 2009 onwards, the target of "major drug seizures and manufacturing" is re-grouped into "major illicit drug seizures and manufacturing completed within 44 working days" and "other illegal drug activities completed within 120 working days" to reflect the different turnaround time requirements.

Indicators

Key indicators for the forensic science services are the number of cases investigated in each category, statutory certificates or technical reports/witness statements issued and crime scenes attended.

	2007 (Actual)	2008 (Actual)	2009 (Estimate)
Criminalistics and Quality Management Group			
cases investigated			
DNA databaseφ	4 833	4 813	4 800
biochemical sciences -			
non-complicated ∇	2 543	1 642	1 700
complicated	1 066	1 624	1 500
parentage testing	2 385	2 737	2 400
chemical sciences	883	853	900
physical sciences	790	693	800
Drugs, Toxicology and Documents Group			
cases investigated			
controlled drugs	7 563	7 681	7 500
analytical toxicology	2 562	2 746	2 900
drink-driving	121	123	100
questioned documents	1 791	1 529	1 500
drug urinalysis -			
methadone clinics	14 682	15 944	18 000
judicial-confirmationφ	16 814	26 114	$34~000\Omega$
judicial-confirmation (test conducted)	80 682	127 701	N.A. ф
Forensic Science Division			
statutory certificates issued	7 868	7 894	7 800
technical reports/statements	13 983	13 825	13 700
crime scenes attended	515	481	500

- φ The indicators of "DNA database" and "drug urinalysis" have been revised to base on the number of cases investigated with effect from 2009 for standardisation. They were previously based on the number of samples tested and the number of tests conducted respectively.
- The previous indicator of "biochemical sciences routine" has been re-named as "biochemical sciences non-complicated" from 2009 as a contrasting term to the other "complicated cases".

 This has included a preliminary estimate of the additional requirement in supporting a pilot scheme which the
- Social Welfare Department will take forward to enhance probation service for convicted drug offenders.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2009–10

- 16 During 2009–10, the Laboratory will:
- endeavour to enhance the efficiency in service areas where targets were not met, by refining methodology, reorganisation and restructuring within each work category; and
- continue to provide analytical support to government departments in the judicial-confirmation urinalysis cases in combating the youth drug abuse problem, including support for a pilot scheme to enhance probation.

ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2007–08 (Actual) (\$m)	2008–09 (Original) (\$m)	2008–09 (Revised) (\$m)	2009–10 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Statutory Testing(2) Advisory and Investigative	109.7	144.8	142.8	131.9
Services	61.1	66.6	68.5	62.0
(3) Forensic Science Services	107.9	117.6	121.0	125.5
	278.7	329.0	332.3 (+1.0%)	319.4 (-3.9%)

(or -2.9% on 2008-09 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

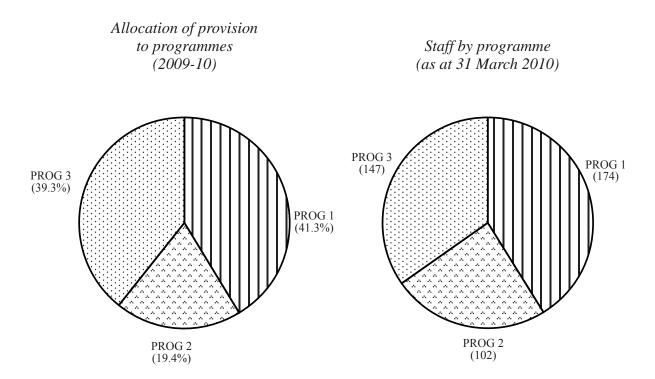
Provision for 2009–10 is \$10.9 million (7.6%) lower than the revised estimate for 2008–09. This is mainly due to reduced requirement for procurement of capital equipment, partly offset by additional provision for the net increase of six posts for the analysis of consumer goods in relation to the fitness with their trade descriptions and increased requirement for specialist stores.

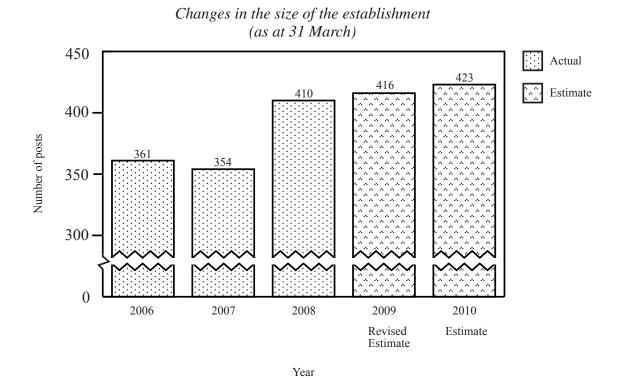
Programme (2)

Provision for 2009–10 is \$6.5 million (9.5%) lower than the revised estimate for 2008–09. This is mainly due to reduced requirement for procurement of capital equipment and specialist stores, partly offset by additional provision for creating one post for biodiesel testing.

Programme (3)

Provision for 2009–10 is \$4.5 million (3.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2008–09. This is mainly due to increased requirement for procurement of capital equipment, partly offset by reduced requirement for specialist stores.





Sub- head (Code)		Actual expenditure 2007–08	Approved estimate 2008–09	Revised estimate 2008–09 \$`000	Estimate 2009–10
	Operating Account				
	Recurrent				
000	Operational expenses	248,259	259,093	268,882	278,422
	Total, Recurrent	248,259	259,093	268,882	278,422
	Total, Operating Account	248,259	259,093	268,882	278,422
	Capital Account				
	Plant, Equipment and Works				
603 661	Plant, vehicles and equipment	9,297	41,857	35,290	32,485
001	vote)	21,137	28,099	28,099	8,542
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works	30,434	69,956	63,389	41,027
	Total, Capital Account	30,434	69,956	63,389	41,027
	Total Expenditure	278,693	329,049	332,271	319,449

Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2009–10 for the salaries and expenses of the Government Laboratory is \$319,449,000. This represents a decrease of \$12,822,000 against the revised estimate for 2008–09 and an increase of \$40,756,000 over actual expenditure in 2007–08.

Operating Account

Recurrent

- **2** Provision of \$278,422,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Government Laboratory.
- **3** The establishment as at 31 March 2009 will be 416 permanent posts. It is expected that there will be a net increase of seven permanent posts in 2009–10. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2009–10, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$186,769,000.
 - 4 An analysis of the financial provision under Subhead 000 Operational expenses is as follows:

	2007–08 (Actual) (\$'000)	2008–09 (Original) (\$'000)	2008–09 (Revised) (\$'000)	2009–10 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	174,314	186,486	194,172	202,597
- Allowances	730	1,073	1,076	1,146
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund				
contribution	523	805	805	869
- Civil Service Provident Fund				
contribution	1,198	2,206	2,206	2,436
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	71,494	68,523	70,623	71,374
	248,259	259,093	268,882	278,422

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

5 Provision of \$8,542,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents a decrease of \$19,557,000 (69.6%) against the revised estimate for 2008–09. This is mainly due to reduced requirement for procurement of new items in 2009–10.

Commitments

Sub- head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2008	Revised estimated expenditure for 2008–09	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Capita	al Acco	unt				
603		Plant, vehicles and equipment				
	807	Replacement of an integrated gas chromatograph	2,500	_	_	2,500
	808	Acquisition of a pyrolysis gas chromatography-mass spectrometer- Fourier transform infrared spectrometer system	2,678	_	_	2,678
	810	Acquisition of a set of instruments for conducting analysis of common drugs of abuse in urine samples	6,563	_	_	6,563
	812	Acquisition of a set of instruments for providing new analytical service for the enforcement of the amended Trade Descriptions Ordinance and its subsidiary legislation	7,539	_	_	7,539
	838	Acquisition of a high resolution inductively coupled plasma - mass spectrometer	5,775	_	_	5,775
	854	Acquisition of a set of instruments to support the enforcement of the legal requirements on nutritional labelling	7,823	_	6,093	1,730
	855	Acquisition of a set of instruments to support the enforcement of the Chinese Medicine Ordinance	8,700	_	3,000	5,700
		Total	41,578		9,093	32,485