

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 2013–14..... **\$80.5m**

Establishment ceiling 2013–14 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 39 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2013 reducing by one post to 38 posts as at 31 March 2014 ... **\$21.2m**

In addition, there will be an estimated eight directorate posts as at 31 March 2013 reducing by one post to seven posts as at 31 March 2014.

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

	2011–12 (Actual)	2012–13 (Original)	2012–13 (Revised)	2013–14 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	9.5	10.7	8.9 (–16.8%)	10.6 (+19.1%)
				(or –0.9% on 2012–13 Original)

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

	2011–12 (Actual)	2012–13 (Original)	2012–13 (Revised)	2013–14 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	28.8	40.9	30.2 (–26.2%)	47.9 (+58.6%)
				(or +17.1% on 2012–13 Original)

Aim

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

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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 2012.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013–14

6 During 2013–14, the Branch will:

- follow through the Pesticides (Amendment) Bill to meet the requirements of the Government under the Stockholm Convention and the Rotterdam Convention;
- prepare legislation to extend the existing import control regime for meat and poultry to cover poultry eggs;
- prepare legislation to govern formula products and foods for infants and young children;
- prepare for the implementation of the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM) in August 2014;
- refine the details of the proposed regulatory framework governing veterinary drug residues in food with reference to the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation;
- continue to collaborate with the Mainland authorities to explore the feasibility of applying information technology in enhancing the traceability of food;
- continue to implement a multi-pronged strategy to prevent avian influenza outbreak;
- continue to review and update the existing standards on food safety having regard to international practice and local needs;
- continue to promote the sustainable development of local agriculture, e.g. through promoting organic farming;
- follow through implementation of the trawl ban in Hong Kong waters and the Fisheries Protection (Amendment) Ordinance (Cap. 171);
- review the moratorium on marine fish culture licences, including launching a pilot scheme to test environmental impact;
- oversee the setting up of a sustainable fisheries development fund;
- follow up on the public consultation on proposals to better regulate pet trading; and
- follow up on the public consultation on proposals to amend the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529).

Programme (3): Environmental Hygiene

	2011–12 (Actual)	2012–13 (Original)	2012–13 (Revised)	2013–14 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	20.6	26.9	20.7 (–23.0%)	22.0 (+6.3%)
				(or –18.2% on 2012–13 Original)

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, increase the supply of columbarium and crematorium facilities and enhance the regulation of private columbaria, 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 2012.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2013–14

9 During 2013–14, the Branch will:

- continue to implement measures to increase the supply of public columbarium and crematorium facilities and to promote the scattering of cremated human ashes at sea or in Gardens of Remembrance;
- formulate appropriate measures to enhance the regulation of private columbaria, including the introduction of proposed legislation for a licensing scheme;

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- take forward an assistance scheme for improving the fire safety and operating environment of fixed-pitch hawker areas; and
- follow up on the public consultation on the review of liquor licensing.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2011–12 (Actual) (\$m)	2012–13 (Original) (\$m)	2012–13 (Revised) (\$m)	2013–14 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Director of Bureau’s Office.....	9.5	10.7	8.9	10.6
(2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety	28.8	40.9	30.2	47.9
(3) Environmental Hygiene.....	20.6	26.9	20.7	22.0
	58.9	78.5	59.8 (–23.8%)	80.5 (+34.6%)
				(or +2.5% on 2012–13 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2013–14 is \$1.7 million (19.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 2012–13. This is mainly due to the full-year provision for the positions of Under Secretary and Political Assistant which were filled in 2012–13.

Programme (2)

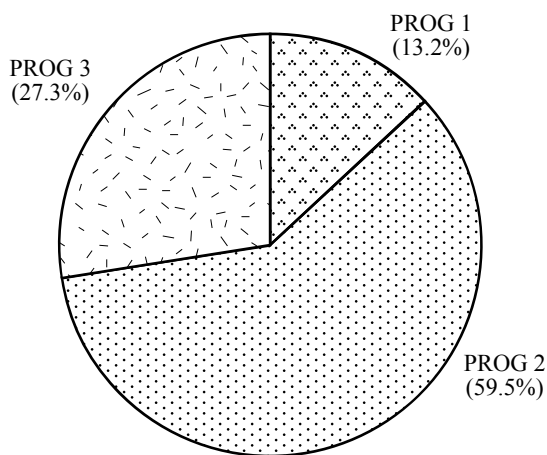
Provision for 2013–14 is \$17.7 million (58.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2012–13. This is mainly due to the lower than expected expenditure in 2012–13 for meeting contingencies arising from zoonotic diseases and food incidents, and the increased provision for providing secretariat support and legal advisory service to the Fishermen Claims Appeal Board. There will be a decrease of two posts including one supernumerary post in 2013–14.

Programme (3)

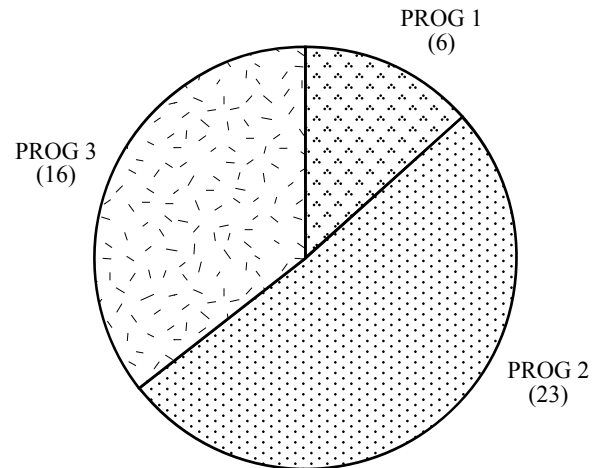
Provision for 2013–14 is \$1.3 million (6.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2012–13. This is mainly due to the increased provision for operating expenses.

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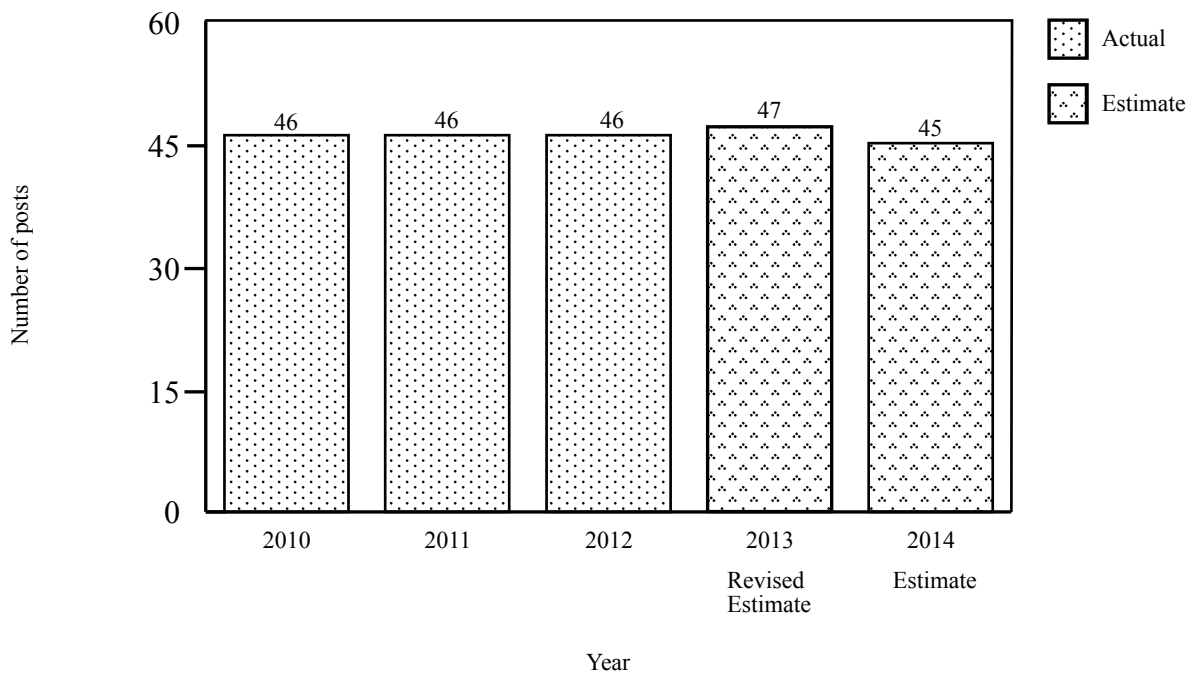
*Allocation of provision
to programmes
(2013-14)*



*Staff by programme
(as at 31 March 2014)*



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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2011-12	Approved estimate 2012-13	Revised estimate 2012-13	Estimate 2013-14	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	58,852	78,531	59,803	80,496
	Total, Recurrent	58,852	78,531	59,803	80,496
	Total, Operating Account.....	58,852	78,531	59,803	80,496
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	Total Expenditure	58,852	78,531	59,803	80,496

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2013–14 for the salaries and expenses of the Food Branch is \$80,496,000. This represents an increase of \$20,693,000 over the revised estimate for 2012–13 and of \$21,644,000 over actual expenditure in 2011–12.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$80,496,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Food Branch. The increase of \$20,693,000 (34.6%) over the revised estimate for 2012–13 is mainly due to the lower than expected expenditure in 2012–13 for meeting contingencies arising from zoonotic diseases and food incidents, and the increased provision for providing secretariat support and legal advisory service to the Fishermen Claims Appeal Board and other operating expenses.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2013 will be 46 permanent posts and one supernumerary post. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of two posts including one supernumerary post in 2013–14. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2013–14, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$21,226,000.

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

	2011–12 (Actual) (\$'000)	2012–13 (Original) (\$'000)	2012–13 (Revised) (\$'000)	2013–14 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	31,691	32,592	34,524	33,906
- Allowances	1,748	1,656	1,763	2,109
- Job-related allowances.....	—	2	2	2
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	23	19	48	52
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	725	809	772	691
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	24,665	43,453	22,694	43,736
	58,852	78,531	59,803	80,496