

Head 45 — FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Controlling officer: the Director of Fire Services will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2018–19 **\$6,676.7m**

Establishment ceiling 2018–19 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 10 675 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2018 rising by 383 posts to 11 058 posts as at 31 March 2019..... **\$4,505.8m**

In addition, there will be an estimated 19 directorate posts as at 31 March 2018 and as at 31 March 2019.

Commitment balance..... **\$709.2m**

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

Programme (1) Fire Service
Programme (2) Fire Protection and Prevention
Programme (3) Ambulance Service

These programmes contribute to Policy Area 9: Internal Security (Secretary for Security).

Detail

Programme (1): Fire Service

	2016–17 (Actual)	2017–18 (Original)	2017–18 (Revised)	2018–19 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	3,405.5	3,708.9	3,604.5 (–2.8%)	4,057.7 (+12.6%)
				(or +9.4% on 2017–18 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to extinguish fires, to protect life and property in case of fire or other calamity and to carry out fire hazard abatement action.

Brief Description

3 Through the strategic deployment of properly trained staff, equipment and appliances within each Command area, effective fire fighting and rescue services are maintained to respond to emergency calls expeditiously and efficiently in order to protect lives and properties. The Fire Services Department will continue to take action to abate imminent fire hazard and promote public awareness of fire safety. This work mainly involves:

- providing an efficient and effective fire service to the community;
- ensuring that all fire fighting and rescue units are in an immediate state of readiness to respond to emergency calls at all times;
- providing refresher and tactical training to all service staff to ensure that performance is maintained at the highest possible standard;
- ensuring that fire safety regulations are observed and emergency vehicular accesses are properly maintained by the public; and
- advising on and responding to fire safety issues in District Councils and District Fire Safety Committees, and organising fire safety publicity activities as part of the efforts to strengthen community involvement in the fight against fire.

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4 The key performance measures in respect of the provision of fire service are:

Targets

	Target	2016 (Actual)	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Plan)
total building fire calls met within graded response time (%).....	92.5	94.0	94.3	92.5
fire calls met within graded response time of six minutes for built-up areas (%).....	92.5	93.7	94.1	92.5
fire calls met within graded response time of nine to 23 minutes for more dispersed risk/isolated developments (%).....	94.5	96.8	96.7	95.0
complaints of imminent fire hazards answered within 24 hours (%).....	100	99.9	100	100
requests for fire drills, fire safety talks, seminars, exhibitions, meetings and operational visits attended (%).....	100	100	100	100

Indicators

	2016 (Actual)	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Estimate)
all fire calls.....	38 112	33 934	34 000
building fire calls in built-up areas.....	30 597	26 460	26 500
building fire calls in more dispersed risk/isolated developments.....	3 551	2 869	2 900
special service calls.....	36 593	36 326	36 300
emergency ambulance calls attended by first responders.....	41 863	40 298	40 000
turnouts of fire appliances to emergency calls.....	167 293	156 152	156 200
emergency move-ups of fire appliances to provide operational coverage.....	63 630	59 343	59 300
complaints of imminent fire hazards received.....	8 541	8 384	8 400
Fire Hazard Abatement Notices issued in respect of floating obstructions to means of escape (MOE) and locked exits.....	2 416	2 511	2 500
prosecutions instituted.....	224	258	250
inspection of hospitals/clinics.....	480	465	460
lectures and advisory services given to hospitals/clinics.....	1 061	1 018	1 000
inspection of fire service installation (FSI) to verify the accuracy of maintenance certificates.....	20 193	18 561	19 000

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018–19

5 During 2018–19, the Department will:

- continue to enhance live-fire and rescue training for and on-scene operational safety of frontline fire personnel;
- continue to monitor the development of a new fire station at the Boundary Crossing Facilities of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and the construction of a new fire station with ambulance facilities at the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point;
- pursue the plan for replacing Command Boat No. 1 and Command Boat No. 2, and continue to monitor the progress of the replacement and procurement of other fire vessels; and
- continue to pursue the replacement of the communication and mobilising system for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency in deploying fire fighting, rescue and ambulance resources.

Programme (2): Fire Protection and Prevention

	2016–17 (Actual)	2017–18 (Original)	2017–18 (Revised)	2018–19 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	485.9	520.2	532.7 (+2.4%)	549.9 (+3.2%)

(or +5.7% on
2017–18 Original)

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Aim

6 The aim is to reduce fire hazards in the community and to ensure that appropriate fire protection measures are provided in buildings and premises according to their intended use(s).

Brief Description

7 The two Fire Protection Commands are responsible for the control of dangerous goods and timber stores, abatement of fire hazards in general, registration of FSI contractors, formulation and inspection of fire safety measures in buildings, and upgrading of fire safety standards in prescribed commercial premises, specified commercial buildings, composite buildings and domestic buildings. They also advise relevant statutory authorities and the public on fire protection/prevention and promote public awareness of fire safety. This work mainly involves:

- licensing storage or manufacture of Category 2 (other than liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)) to Category 10 dangerous goods, storage of timber and vehicles for conveyance of Category 2 (other than LPG) and Category 5 dangerous goods;
- conducting investigation of complaints about dangerous goods (other than LPG), illicit fuelling activities, vehicle repair workshops and fire hazards and initiating law enforcement action;
- registration of FSI contractors and monitoring of their performance;
- vetting and certifying building plans in respect of provision of FSIs and equipment;
- ensuring the provision and proper maintenance of FSIs and equipment in buildings;
- vetting and approving portable fire fighting equipment;
- conducting inspection of fire safety in schools, child care centres, food premises, prescribed commercial premises, specified commercial buildings, composite buildings, karaoke establishments, drug dependent persons treatment and rehabilitation centres, and places of public entertainment;
- conducting inspection of ventilating systems in buildings and licensed premises;
- giving lectures and advisory services on fire safety of premises other than hospitals and clinics;
- processing loan applications on fire safety improvement works under the Comprehensive Building Safety Improvement Loan Scheme;
- upgrading fire safety measures in prescribed commercial premises, specified commercial buildings, composite buildings and domestic buildings; and
- inculcating a fire safety culture in Hong Kong and encouraging greater community involvement in improving fire safety.

8 The key performance measures in respect of fire protection and prevention are:

Targets

	Target	2016 (Actual)	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Plan)
safety requirements issued within 28 working days for storage/manufacture of Category 2 (other than LPG) to Category 10 dangerous goods and/or for storage of timber following receipt of application and the required details/plans in full (%).....	100	100	100	100
safety requirements issued within six working days for vehicles used for conveyance of Category 2 (other than LPG) or Category 5 dangerous goods following receipt of application (%).....	100	100	100	100
licences issued within six working days for storage/manufacture of Category 2 (other than LPG) to Category 10 dangerous goods and/or storage of timber upon confirmation of full compliance with safety requirements (%)	100	100	100	100

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	Target	2016 (Actual)	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Plan)
licences issued within six working days for vehicles used for conveyance of Category 2 (other than LPG) or Category 5 dangerous goods upon confirmation of full compliance with safety requirements (%).....	100	100	100	100
fire safety requirements issued within 20 working days for the licensing/ registration of schools, child care centres, food premises, places of public entertainment, karaoke establishments, and drug dependent persons treatment and rehabilitation centres following receipt of application and the required details/plans in full (%).....	90	100	100	95
Fire Services Certificates issued within seven working days upon confirmation of full compliance with fire safety requirements for all licence/registration applications (%).....	90	100	100	95
complaints about dangerous goods (other than LPG) or reports of fire hazards posing imminent danger investigated within 24 hours (%).....	100	99.9	100	100
complainants for complaints related to imminent danger advised within 12 working days of outcome of investigation (%).....	90.0	99.9	100	90.0
complaints about fire hazards not posing imminent danger investigated within ten working days (%).....	95.0	99.9	100	95.0
complainants for complaints not related to imminent danger advised within 27 working days of outcome of investigation (%).....	90.0	99.9	100	95.0
applications processed within seven working days for registration as FSI contractors (%).....	100	100	100	100
letters of approval issued within 14 working days to applicants for registration as FSI contractors upon completion of all formalities (%).....	100	100	100	100
no. of prescribed commercial premises inspected.....	50	38	50	50
no. of specified commercial buildings inspected.....	20	20	20	20
no. of composite buildings inspected.....	400	300	416	400

Indicators

	2016 (Actual)	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Estimate)
licences renewed/issued			
timber/dangerous goods stores.....	4 456	4 260	4 400
dangerous goods vehicles.....	1 968	2 013	1 950
Fire Hazard Abatement Notices issued (other than floating obstructions to MOE and locked exits).....	7 393	12 539	8 000
prosecutions instituted			
dangerous goods and timber stores.....	230	219	250
fire hazards.....	376	473	400
building plans processed.....	18 399	20 966	22 000
inspection of FSIs and equipment.....	184 417	201 716	200 000
applications for approval of portable fire fighting equipment and FSI/equipment processed.....	199	329	200

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	2016 (Actual)	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Estimate)
inspection of fire safety in schools, child care centres, food premises, places of public entertainment, karaoke establishments, and drug dependent persons treatment and rehabilitation centres	40 122	39 789	39 000
inspection of fire safety in commercial premises and composite buildings	58 009	68 778	62 000
inspection of ventilating systems in buildings and licensed premises	33 392	32 418	33 300
lectures and advisory services given (other than hospitals/clinics)	119 550	126 472	123 900
prescribed commercial premises			
no. of fire safety directions issued	650	787	800
no. of fire safety directions complied with/discharged ...	696	850	850
specified commercial buildings			
no. of fire safety improvement directions issued	2 886	2 010	2 000
no. of fire safety improvement directions complied with/discharged	4 115	3 228	3 500
composite buildings			
no. of fire safety directions issued	13 823	15 069	16 000
no. of fire safety directions complied with/discharged ...	7 188	7 529	7 500

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018–19

9 During 2018–19, the Department will continue to:

- enhance fire protection measures for prescribed commercial premises with floor area exceeding 230 square metres, specified commercial buildings, composite buildings and domestic buildings;
- pursue legislative work to improve the fire safety of old industrial buildings;
- fine-tune the proposals for amending the remaining subsidiary legislation under the Dangerous Goods Ordinance (Cap. 295) to enhance the control of dangerous goods;
- review the legislative provisions regarding the registration scheme for FSI contractors;
- pursue legislative work for the introduction of a scheme for registered fire engineers;
- step up inspection of pre-1987 composite/domestic buildings to enhance fire safety; and
- step up inspection and enforcement actions against fire safety irregularities in industrial buildings.

Programme (3): Ambulance Service

	2016–17 (Actual)	2017–18 (Original)	2017–18 (Revised)	2018–19 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	1,672.3	1,820.7	1,767.8 (–2.9%)	2,069.1 (+17.0%)
				(or +13.6% on 2017–18 Original)

Aim

10 The aim is to provide an efficient and effective paramedic emergency ambulance service to meet public demand.

Brief Description

11 Through strategic deployment of properly trained staff, equipment and ambulances, the Department maintains an ambulance service that responds to ambulance calls effectively and efficiently. This work mainly involves:

- rendering assistance to any person who appears to need prompt or immediate medical attention by securing his safety, resuscitating or sustaining his life and reducing his suffering or distress;
- ensuring that all emergency calls that require the immediate provision of ambulance aid and subsequent conveyance of the sick or injured persons to hospital are responded to as expeditiously as possible;
- ensuring that all hospital transfer calls received by the Department, involving the transfer of patients from a hospital or clinic to an acute hospital for urgent medical investigation or treatment are responded to as expeditiously as possible;
- ensuring that all ambulances and equipment are well maintained and fully operational at all times;

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- maintaining good working relationship with district organisations, medical institutions, etc., to facilitate the effective and efficient discharge of operational duties; and
- maintaining and enhancing pre-hospital emergency care knowledge and skills of personnel through regular and specialised training.

12 The key performance measures in respect of the provision of ambulance service are:

Target

	Target	2016 (Actual)	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Plan)
emergency calls answered within the target response time of 12 minutes (%)...	92.5	95.0	95.1	92.5

Indicators

	2016 (Actual)	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Estimate)
no. of emergency calls.....	726 286	734 310	744 600
no. of hospital transfer calls	45 654	50 034	51 700
calls per ambulance	2 005	2 016	2 079
turnouts of ambulances, ambulance motor cycles and Rapid Response Vehicles to calls	835 099	850 681	867 700
emergency move-ups of ambulances to provide operational coverage.....	89 150	95 219	101 000

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018–19

13 During 2018–19, the Department will:

- continue to implement the Rapid Response Vehicle Scheme to enhance the delivery of paramedic ambulance service and quality assurance,
- implement a community education programme for members of the public on cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and the use of public access defibrillator,
- continue to strengthen publicity activities to educate the public on the proper use of emergency ambulance service,
- put in place a computer system for the provision of post-dispatch advice to callers requesting emergency ambulance service, and
- continue to explore the long-term arrangement for the provision of emergency ambulance service.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

	2016-17 (Actual) (\$m)	2017-18 (Original) (\$m)	2017-18 (Revised) (\$m)	2018-19 (Estimate) (\$m)
Programme				
(1) Fire Service	3,405.5	3,708.9	3,604.5	4,057.7
(2) Fire Protection and Prevention	485.9	520.2	532.7	549.9
(3) Ambulance Service	1,672.3	1,820.7	1,767.8	2,069.1
	5,563.7	6,049.8	5,905.0 (-2.4%)	6,676.7 (+13.1%)
				(or +10.4% on 2017-18 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2018-19 is \$453.2 million (12.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2017-18. This is mainly due to the net increase of 170 posts, as well as additional provision for filling vacancies, and increased cash flow requirement for capital items.

Programme (2)

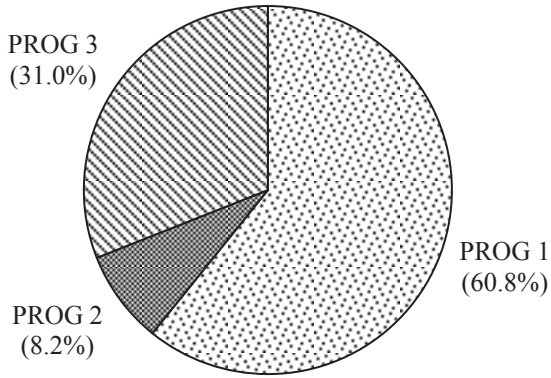
Provision for 2018-19 is \$17.2 million (3.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 2017-18. This is mainly due to the net increase of 109 posts, as well as additional provision for filling vacancies, and increased operating expenses.

Programme (3)

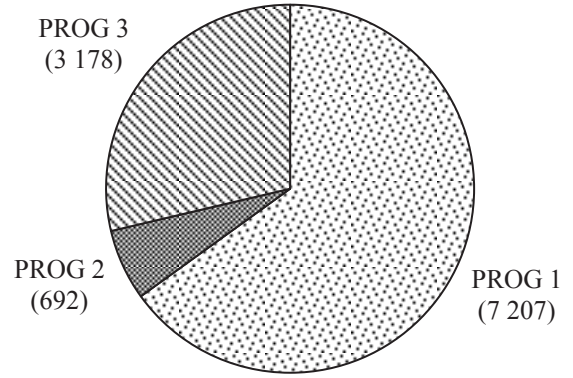
Provision for 2018-19 is \$301.3 million (17.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2017-18. This is mainly due to the net increase of 104 posts, as well as additional provision for filling vacancies, and increased operating expenses and cash flow requirement for capital items.

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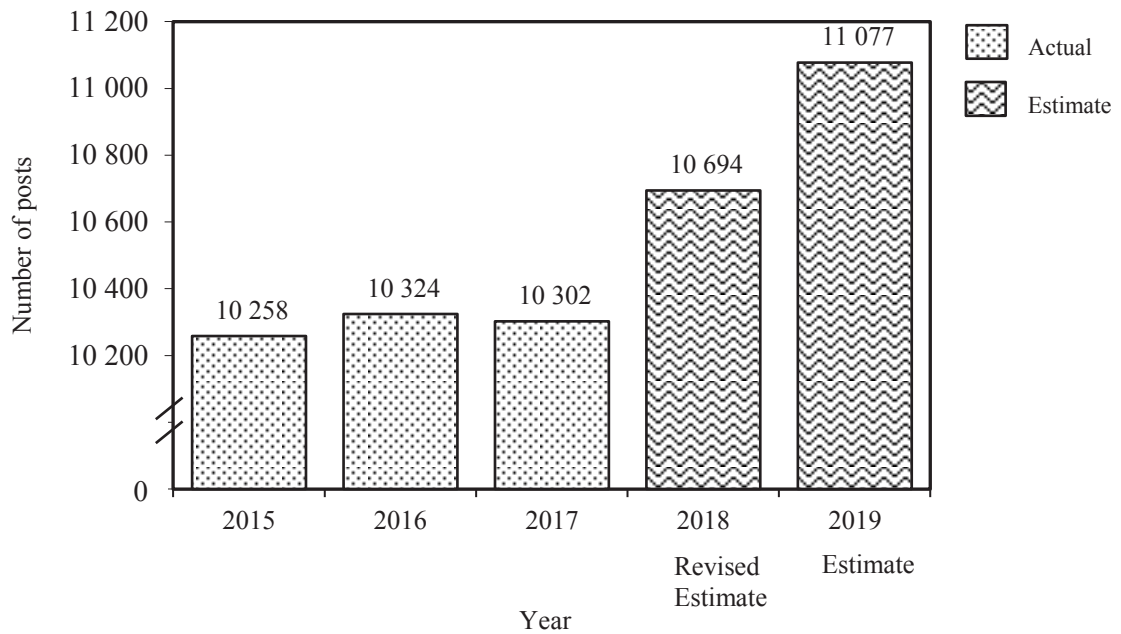
*Allocation of provision
to programmes
(2018-19)*



*Staff by programme
(as at 31 March 2019)*



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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2016-17	Approved estimate 2017-18	Revised estimate 2017-18	Estimate 2018-19	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	5,403,213	5,585,480	5,674,880	6,014,335
	Total, Recurrent	5,403,213	5,585,480	5,674,880	6,014,335
	Total, Operating Account	5,403,213	5,585,480	5,674,880	6,014,335
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Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
603	Plant, vehicles and equipment.....	44,061	104,672	92,566	67,679
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	30,500	186,697	32,348	381,395
690	Town ambulances (block vote).....	85,949	172,975	105,198	213,314
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	160,510	464,344	230,112	662,388
	Total, Capital Account.....	160,510	464,344	230,112	662,388
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	Total Expenditure	5,563,723	6,049,824	5,904,992	6,676,723

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2018–19 for the salaries and expenses of the Fire Services Department is \$6,676,723,000. This represents an increase of \$771,731,000 over the revised estimate for 2017–18 and \$1,113 million over the actual expenditure in 2016–17.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$6,014,335,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Fire Services Department.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2018 will be 10 694 permanent posts. It is expected that there will be a net increase of 383 permanent posts in 2018–19. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2018–19, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$4,505,824,000.

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

	2016–17 (Actual) (\$'000)	2017–18 (Original) (\$'000)	2017–18 (Revised) (\$'000)	2018–19 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries.....	4,180,956	4,342,729	4,380,554	4,555,823
- Allowances.....	83,419	58,641	61,729	64,729
- Job-related allowances.....	101,792	100,302	107,658	118,347
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	18,916	19,939	20,483	25,140
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	238,964	283,763	279,248	326,051
Departmental Expenses				
- Specialist supplies and equipment.....	84,643	88,268	81,768	131,249
- General departmental expenses.....	694,523	691,838	743,440	792,996
	5,403,213	5,585,480	5,674,880	6,014,335

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

5 Provision of \$381,395,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents an increase of \$349,047,000 (1 079%) over the revised estimate for 2017–18. This reflects the increased cash flow requirement for fire appliances and equipment.

6 Provision of \$213,314,000 under *Subhead 690 Town ambulances (block vote)* is for the replacement of town ambulances each costing up to \$10 million. The increase of \$108,116,000 (102.8%) over the revised estimate for 2017–18 is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for town ambulances.

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Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2017	Revised estimated expenditure for 2017–18	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Capital Account						
603		<i>Plant, vehicles and equipment</i>				
	8BY	Replacement of Fireboat No. 7	98,260	—	8,500	89,760
	8BZ	Three replacement turntable ladders F279, F280 and F281	39,690	22,898	5,000	11,792
	8CQ	Replacement of diving support speedboat No. 2	16,000	—	7,200	8,800
	8CR	Replacement of diving support speedboat No. 3	16,000	—	7,200	8,800
	8CU	Three replacement turntable ladders F15, F282 and F283 and acquisition of a turntable ladder for Tsim Tung Fire Station.....	53,334	230	8,000	45,104
	8EX	One replacement crash fire tender R12....	15,000	5,273	4,300	5,427
	8EY	One replacement jackless snorkel R34....	13,862	3,920	720	9,222
	8F4	One replacement crash fire tender R32....	13,199	500	500	12,199
	8F5	One replacement aerial ladder platform F722	16,940	—	—	16,940
	8F6	Acquisition of a fireboat.....	125,000	—	500	124,500
	8F7	Acquisition of a fast rescue vessel	40,000	—	300	39,700
	8F8	Replacement of Fireboat No. 2	97,500	—	500	97,000
	8F9	Replacement of Command Boat No. 1Ω.....	120,000Ω	—	—	120,000
	8FA	Replacement of Command Boat No. 2Ω.....	120,000Ω	—	—	120,000
		Total	<u>784,785</u>	<u>32,821</u>	<u>42,720</u>	<u>709,244</u>

Ω This is a new item, funding for which is sought in the context of the Appropriation Bill 2018.