

## 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 2018–19** ..... **\$165.6m**

**Establishment ceiling 2018–19** (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 48 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2018 rising by four posts to 52 posts as at 31 March 2019 ..... **\$34.6m**

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

### Controlling Officer's Report

#### Programmes

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

#### Detail

##### Programme (1): Director of Bureau's Office

	2016–17 (Actual)	2017–18 (Original)	2017–18 (Revised)	<b>2018–19 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	11.9	12.4	12.3 (–0.8%)	<b>14.3</b> (+16.3%)
				(or +15.3% on 2017–18 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 her 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

	2016–17 (Actual)	2017–18 (Original)	2017–18 (Revised)	<b>2018–19 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	57.2	83.3	81.9 (–1.7%)	<b>86.4</b> (+5.5%)
				(or +3.7% on 2017–18 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.

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

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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 2017.

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018–19*

6 During 2018–19, the Branch will:

- continue to review and update local food safety standards, guidelines and regulatory arrangements, including but not limited to those concerning metallic contaminants and harmful substances;
- continue to study the feasibility of reprovisioning and expanding the Food Safety Laboratory of the Government Laboratory to increase its testing capability and enhance its operational efficiency for tests relating to food safety;
- continue to devise and implement a strategic plan for encouraging reduced intake of salt and sugars in food to promote a healthy diet;
- implement the new agriculture policy to proactively support the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture, including preparing for the establishment of the Agricultural Park, and commencing a consultancy study on agricultural priority areas;
- implement recommendations of the consultancy study on the future of the live poultry trade, including the introduction of enhanced vaccine against avian influenza virus in local chicken farms, and continue to implement a multi-pronged strategy to prevent avian influenza outbreak;
- monitor the progress of various measures introduced to sustain and upgrade the development of local fisheries;
- expand the existing fish culture zone(s);
- study the existing legislation related to animal welfare and explore introducing a concept of positive duty of care on animal keepers;
- review the regulation of, and support to, food animal farms so as to enhance their biosecurity, in contribution to Hong Kong's overall effort to combat the problem of antimicrobial resistance;
- review the export control of powdered formulae;
- prepare regulations under the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529) to provide for the election of members of the veterinary profession to the Veterinary Surgeons Board; and
- prepare legislation for implementing the requirements of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in Hong Kong, including the Catch Documentation Scheme for toothfish and other relevant conservation measures.

### **Programme (3): Environmental Hygiene**

	2016–17 (Actual)	2017–18 (Original)	2017–18 (Revised)	<b>2018–19 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	62.0	66.4	60.3 (–9.2%)	<b>64.9</b> (+7.6%)
				(or –2.3% on 2017–18 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 public 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 2017.

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

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### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2018–19*

- 9 During 2018–19, the Branch will:
- oversee the conducting of a comprehensive review on public markets, with a view to formulating concrete improvement proposals for the management and hardware of public markets;
  - 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;
  - oversee the implementation of the regulatory regime for private columbaria in accordance with the Private Columbaria Ordinance (Cap. 630);
  - conduct a review on fixed-pitch hawker licences upon the completion of the assistance scheme for improving the fire safety and operating environment of fixed-pitch hawker areas; and
  - oversee the cleansing work of the environment, particularly targeting on hygiene blackspots, mosquito and midge control as well as rodent control.

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

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**ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION**

	2016-17 (Actual) (\$m)	2017-18 (Original) (\$m)	2017-18 (Revised) (\$m)	2018-19 (Estimate) (\$m)
<b>Programme</b>				
(1) Director of Bureau's Office .....	11.9	12.4	12.3	<b>14.3</b>
(2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety.....	57.2	83.3	81.9	<b>86.4</b>
(3) Environmental Hygiene .....	62.0	66.4	60.3	<b>64.9</b>
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	131.1	162.1	154.5 (-4.7%)	<b>165.6</b> (+7.2%)
				<b>(or +2.2% on 2017-18 Original)</b>

**Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision**

**Programme (1)**

Provision for 2018-19 is \$2.0 million (16.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2017-18. This is mainly due to increased provision for salary payment to politically appointed officials and non-civil service contract staff.

**Programme (2)**

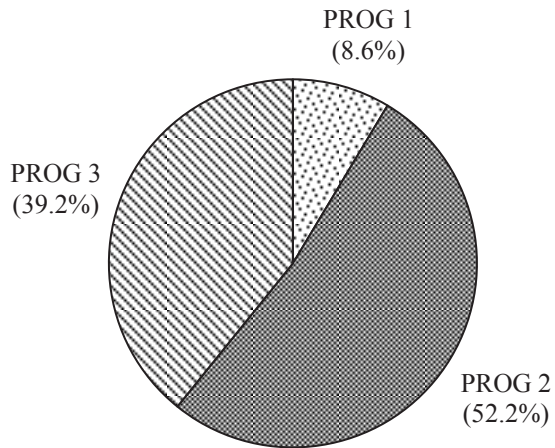
Provision for 2018-19 is \$4.5 million (5.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2017-18. This is mainly due to the increased provision for personal emoluments and operating expenses. There will be a net increase of two posts in 2018-19.

**Programme (3)**

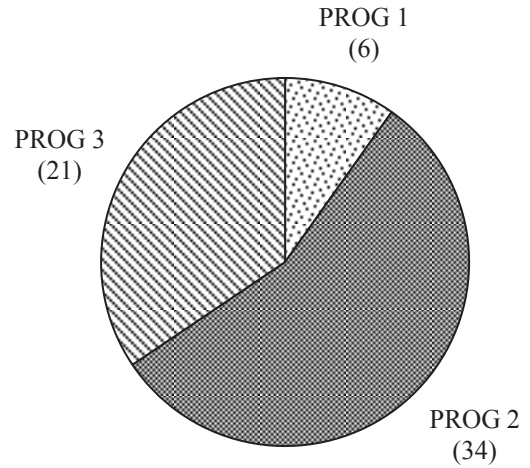
Provision for 2018-19 is \$4.6 million (7.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2017-18. This is mainly due to the increased provision for personal emoluments, regulation of private columbaria and other operating expenses. There will be an increase of two posts in 2018-19.

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

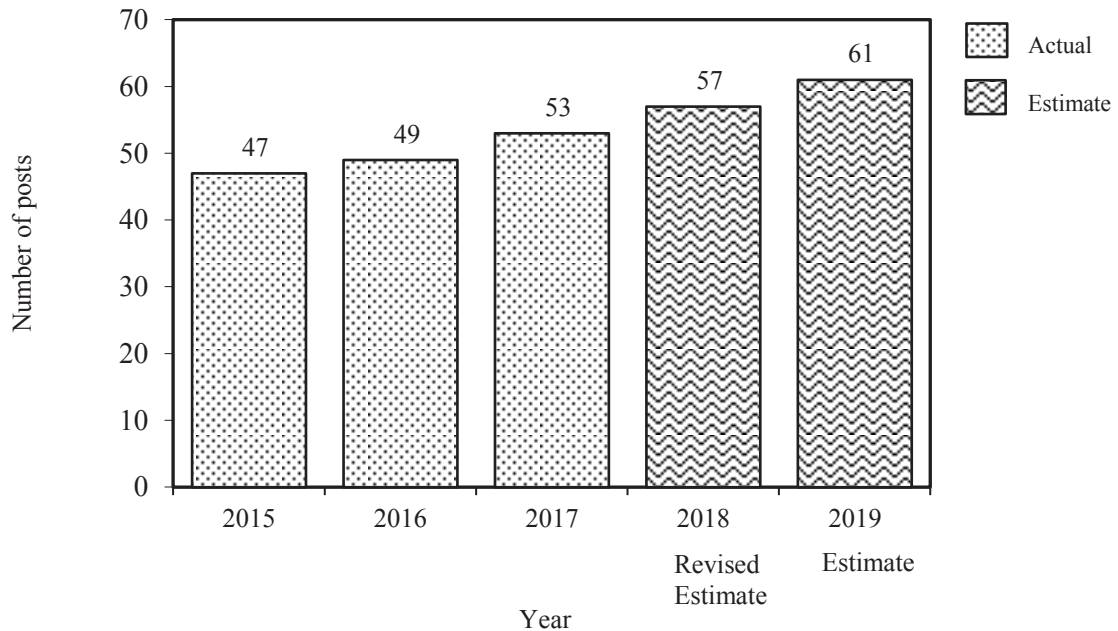
*Allocation of provision  
to programmes  
(2018-19)*



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



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



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

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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2016–17	Approved estimate 2017–18	Revised estimate 2017–18	<b>Estimate 2018–19</b>	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	<b>\$'000</b>	
<b>Operating Account</b>					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses .....	131,095	162,081	154,474	<b>165,583</b>
	Total, Recurrent.....	131,095	162,081	154,474	<b>165,583</b>
	Total, Operating Account .....	131,095	162,081	154,474	<b>165,583</b>
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	Total Expenditure .....	131,095	162,081	154,474	<b>165,583</b>
		<u>131,095</u>	<u>162,081</u>	<u>154,474</u>	<u><b>165,583</b></u>

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

### Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2018–19 for the salaries and expenses of the Food Branch is \$165,583,000. This represents an increase of \$11,109,000 over the revised estimate for 2017–18 and \$34,488,000 over the actual expenditure in 2016–17.

#### *Operating Account*

#### Recurrent

**2** Provision of \$165,583,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Food Branch.

**3** The establishment as at 31 March 2018 will be 57 posts including one supernumerary post. It is expected that there will be a net increase of four 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 \$34,623,000.

**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)	<b>2018–19 (Estimate) (\$'000)</b>
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries.....	44,041	48,805	49,407	<b>53,684</b>
- Allowances.....	2,982	3,658	3,183	<b>3,981</b>
- Job-related allowances.....	—	2	2	<b>2</b>
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	83	84	115	<b>85</b>
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	1,627	2,464	2,341	<b>3,268</b>
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses .....	82,362	107,068	99,426	<b>104,563</b>
	131,095	162,081	154,474	<b>165,583</b>