Controlling officer: the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2019–20	\$8,434.9m
Establishment ceiling 2019–20 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 11 277 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2019 rising by 81 posts to 11 358 posts as at 31 March 2020.	\$3,737.5m
In addition, there will be an estimated 19 directorate posts as at 31 March 2019 rising by two posts to 21 posts as at 31 March 2020.	

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

Programme (1) Food Safety and Public Health	This programme contributes to Policy Area 2: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety (Secretary for Food and Health).
Programme (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services Programme (3) Market Management and Hawker Control	These programmes contribute to Policy Area 32: Environmental Hygiene (Secretary for Food and Health).
Programme (4) Public Education and Community Involvement	This programme contributes to Policy Area 2: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety (Secretary for Food and Health) and Policy Area 32: Environmental Hygiene (Secretary for Food and Health).

Detail

Programme (1): Food Safety and Public Health

	2017–18 (Actual)	2018–19 (Original)	2018–19 (Revised)	2019–20 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	1,161.0	1,305.3	1,310.8 (+0.4%)	1,432.4 (+9.3%)

(or +9.7% on 2018–19 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to ensure that food available for human consumption is wholesome, hygienic and safe; and to safeguard public health through testing and control of live food animals and effective pest control.

Brief Description

- **3** The work involves:
- conducting risk assessment on food and providing timely information to the public;
- investigating and managing food incidents;
- exercising import control on high-risk food and issuing health certificates for food exports;
- exercising import control on live food animals;
- · conducting inspections and tests on live food animals at licensed slaughterhouses;
- providing meat inspection services at licensed slaughterhouses;
- conducting food surveillance at various points of the food chain and taking enforcement actions;
- promoting the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) approach to the trade and the adoption of HACCP-based food safety plans;
- ensuring prepackaged food for sale is properly labelled;
- conducting risk assessment on pests affecting public health;
- taking control measures to prevent vector-borne diseases; and
- investigating incidents of vector-borne diseases.

4 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Plan)
initiating investigation of reports of food unfit for human consumption within 24 hours (%)applications for import of game, meat and	100	100	100	100
poultry to be processed within five working days (%) applications for import of milk and milk products to be processed within	98	100	100	98
12 working days (%) applications for import of frozen confections to be processed within	98	100	100	98
12 working days (%) applications for export or re-export food health certificates to be processed	98	100	100	98
within 12 working days (%) issuing veterinary health certificates for export food containing animal products	98	100	100	98
within two working days (%) inspecting vehicles carrying poultry at	100	100	100	100
Man Kam To (% of vehicles) testing pigs for beta-agonists (% of lots) conducting inspections of farms exporting food animals to Hong Kong (no. of	N.A. 98	100 100	100	N.A. 98
farms) food surveillance through testing of food samples (no. of food samples tested per	35	44	43	35
1 000 population per year) initiating investigation of complaints about food labelling within	8	9	9	9
three working days (%) initiating pest control measures within 24 hours upon receiving report of	100	100	100	100
vector-borne diseases (%) dealing with complaints on wasps/ bees infestation within	100	100	100	100
six working days (%)	100	100	100	100

 \wedge No live food poultry was imported into Hong Kong in 2018. As there is no appropriate basis for making any estimate for the trading of food poultry, the target is removed as from 2019.

Indicators

	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Estimate)
food complaints handled	6 178	5 801	6 000
applications for import of game, meat and poultry	2 725	2 614	2 610
applications for import of milk and milk products	510	494	490
applications for import of frozen confections	414	423	420
export or re-export food health certificates issued	497	465	460
veterinary health certificates for export food containing			
animal products issued	132	1 199#	1 200
vehicles carrying poultry inspected at Man Kam Toλ	55	0	N.A.
samples taken from imported live poultry for testing of			
avian influenza (including H5 and H7) λ	1 369	0	N.A.
vehicles carrying vegetables inspected at Man Kam To Food			
Control Office	28 004	24 415	21 000
samples taken from food animals for testing of veterinary			
drug residues	48 319	47 687	48 000
food samples taken for testing	66 994β	65 875β	65 000
labels checked	55 108	55 082	55 000
HACCP seminars/workshops	33	33	33
poison treatments of rodent infestation in building blocks	70 121	93 815	93 800
no. of rodent trappings¶	54 438	60 432	60 400

	2017	2018	2019
	(Actual)	(Actual)	(Estimate)
mosquito breeding places eliminated	57 701	63 635	63 600
pest control surveys conducted	9 244	10 116	10 600

- # The increase in the number of veterinary health certificates for export food containing animal products issued in 2018 was mainly because of introduction of the new requirement of exporting mooncakes to the Mainland in 2018.
- λ No live food poultry was imported into Hong Kong in 2018. As there is no appropriate basis for making any estimate for the trading of food poultry, the indicators are removed as from 2019.
- β This indicator excludes samples taken from imported Japanese food for examination of radiation level in connection with the Japan nuclear power plant incident in March 2011. The number of such samples was 84 075 in 2017 and 93 578 in 2018.
- Revised description of the previous indicator "no. of trappings" as from 2018.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019–20

- 5 During 2019–20, the Department will:
- follow up proactively the recommendations in the Audit Reports released in November 2018 and the Public Accounts Committee reports concerned to strengthen the functions of the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) in food safety management and food import control;
- continue to review and update local food safety standards, guidelines and regulatory arrangements, including but not limited to those concerning harmful substances (including mycotoxins) and trans fats in foods;
- continue to re-engineer workflow, overhaul and develop new information technology systems for CFS for more effective management of data in food import and food safety incidents; and
- continue to take forward initiatives to enhance pest control services, particularly in respect of mosquitoes and rodents, to strengthen response to vector-borne diseases and vector surveillance programmes.

Programme (2): Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

	2017–18 (Actual)	2018–19 (Original)	2018–19 (Revised)	2019–20 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	3,678.4	4,196.5	4,136.0 (-1.4%)	4,828.6 (+16.7%)
				(or + 15.1% on

⁽or +15.1% on 2018–19 Original)

Aim

6 The aim is to provide quality environmental hygiene services and facilities, and to safeguard public health through licensing and regulation of licensed food premises.

Brief Description

- 7 The work involves:
- providing efficient and effective public cleansing services, including street cleansing and household waste collection, and management of public cleansing facilities such as public toilets and refuse collection points;
- licensing and inspecting food premises, and taking enforcement actions against unlicensed and unhygienic food premises;
- processing liquor licence applications and providing administrative support to the Liquor Licensing Board;
- licensing private swimming pools, commercial bathhouses, places of public entertainment, funeral parlours, undertakers, karaoke establishments in restaurants, slaughterhouses and offensive trades, and taking enforcement actions in relation to these activities;
- abating environmental nuisances relating to dripping air-conditioners and water seepage and cleaning up environmental hygiene blackspots;
- managing cremation and burial facilities, including public cemeteries, crematoria and columbaria; and
- regulating private columbaria under the Private Columbaria Ordinance (Cap. 630).

8 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Plan)
Closuring		()	()	()
Cleansing completion of first round street sweeping services on main roads before 9:00 a.m. to ensure removal of over-night street litter (%)	99	100	100	99
Licensing of food premises holding of Application Vetting Panel meeting for restaurant licences within 20 working days from				
passing of initial screening (%) issuing of food business licences	99	100	100	99
within seven working days from confirmation of compliance (%) issuing of provisional licences for restaurants and other food premises within one working day from receipt of acceptable Certificates of Compliance for	99	100	99	99
submissions over the counter (%) issuing of liquor licences and club liquor licences within five working days from approval	99	100	100	99
by Liquor Licensing Board (%) Licensing of private swimming pools, commercial bathhouses, places of public entertainment, funeral parlours, undertakers, karaoke establishments in restaurants, slaughterhouses and offensive trades# issuing of Letters of Requirements within seven working days from clearance with concerned	99	100	100	99
departments (%) issuing of licences within seven working days from	99	100	100	99
confirmation of compliance (%)	99	100	100	99
Cemeteries and crematoria booking of cremation sessions within 15 days (%)	99	100	100	99
allocation of burial spaces on the day of application (%)	99	100	100	99

Revised description of the previous target "Licensing of private swimming pools, commercial bathhouses, places of public entertainment, funeral parlours, offensive trades" as from 2019.

Indicators

	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Estimate)
refuse collected (tonnes)	2 097 414	2 160 373	2 160 000
recurrent expenditure per tonne of refuse collected (\$) Δ sludge collected by gully emptiers (tonnes)	267 2 946	$\begin{array}{r} 282\\3 138\end{array}$	304 3 140
restaurant licences	14 246	14 998	15 000
other food-related licences (e.g. liquor, food factory, bakery)	19 703	20 509	20 500
restricted food permits (e.g. sushi and milk)	7 423	7 952	7 900
applications for new food business licences #	4 348	4 499	4 500
applications for new restricted food permits Ψ	1 356	1 574	1 600

Head 49 — FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE DEPARTMENT

	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Estimate)
inspections to food premises	248 452	230 254	230 300
raids against illegal slaughtering	24	12@	12
prosecutions against food premises			
licensed	2 433	2 580	2 600
unlicensed	2 902	3 312	3 300
food business licences suspended/cancelled	104	99	100
courses/seminars for Hygiene Supervisors	113	114	114
applications for private swimming pools, places of public entertainment and other licences (excluding applications for temporary licences) inspections conducted to private swimming pools, places of	128	543Ω	180§
public entertainment, etc	12 949	12 711	13 030
no. of cremations provided			10 000
body	42 809	43 803	43 800
skeletal	1 961	1 855	1 900
no. of burials conducted			
coffin	919	919	920
urn	918	980	980
exhumation permits issued	4 671	4 483	4 500

The figures represent unit expenditure for the respective financial years ending 31 March. Δ

Ψ

Revised description of the previous indicator "applications for food business licences" as from 2018. Revised description of the previous indicator "applications for restricted food permits" as from 2018. The decrease in the number of raids (i.e. surveillance checks) is due to a reduction in the number of suspected (a) illegal slaughterhouses in 2018.

Ω The figure includes the number of applications for a licence, an exemption or a temporary suspension of liability for operating a columbarium following the enactment of the Private Columbaria Ordinance on 30 June 2017.

It does not include the number of applications for a licence, an exemption or a temporary suspension of § liability for operating a columbarium. There is no appropriate basis for making any estimate for 2019.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019–20

- 9 During 2019–20, the Department will:
- continue to take stringent enforcement actions against unlicensed food premises and food premises which pose immediate health hazards or with illegal extension of food business areas;
- roll out the Enhanced Public Toilet Refurbishment Programme to improve the design and facilities of existing public toilets by phases;
- continue to explore and apply new technology and automation to enhance environmental hygiene services and strengthen related enforcement and prosecution work;
- continue to take forward plans and projects to provide more crematorium and columbarium facilities;
- resume allocation of new niches; and
- continue to implement the Private Columbaria Ordinance by supporting the Private Columbaria Licensing Board in processing applications for a licence or other specified instruments for operating a private columbarium, and taking enforcement actions under the Ordinance.

Programme (3): Market Management and Hawker Control

	2017–18	2018–19	2018–19	2019–20
	(Actual)	(Original)	(Revised)	(Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	1,881.3	2,034.9	2,001.1 (-1.7%)	2,102.9 (+5.1%)

(or +3.3% on 2018–19 Original)

Aim

10 The aim is to provide new public market facilities at suitable locations, enhance viability of and maintain a clean and hygienic environment in existing public markets, and control on-street hawking activities.

Brief Description

- 11 The work involves:
- providing new public market facilities at suitable locations;
- managing and maintaining existing public markets, including revitalisation as appropriate;
- inspecting public markets to ensure cleanliness and compliance with tenancy requirements and conditions;
- controlling and containing on-street hawking activities and obstruction;
- managing licensed hawker pitches, hawker permitted places and hawker bazaars; and
- taking enforcement actions.
- 12 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Plan)
 markets with common parts cleansed at least three times a day (%) stalls let (%)θ responding to complaints against illegal least in built or another part in b	100 85	100 89	100 89	100 90
hawking in built-up areas within 30 minutes (%)	98	98	99	98

 θ In calculating the letting percentage, the number of stalls set aside for designated purposes has been included in the total number of stalls for letting.

Indicators

	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Estimate)
licensed hawkers			
fixed pitch hawkers	5 341	5 148	5 100
itinerant hawkers	399	383	380
estimated no. of unlicensed hawkers	1 445	1 469	1 470
raids by Hawker Control Teams	120 059	118 068	118 000
joint operations against illegal hawking with other			
departments	1 951	2 198	2 200
hawker blackspots	45	45	45

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019–20

- 13 During 2019–20, the Department will:
- continue to plan new public market facilities at suitable locations;
- continue the comprehensive review on public markets, with a view to formulating concrete improvement proposals for the management of public markets;
- continue to implement the Market Modernisation Programme to improve facilities of existing public markets;
- take action to close public markets which are under-utilised;
- continue to enforce against shop front extensions; and
- issue new hawker licences for trading at suitable vacant fixed pitches.

Programme (4): Public Education and Community Involvement

	2017–18	2018–19	2018–19	2019–20
	(Actual)	(Original)	(Revised)	(Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	58.3	53.2	70.4 (+32.3%)	71.0 (+0.9%)

(or +33.5% on 2018–19 Original)

Aim

14 The aim is to promote food safety, maintenance of a hygienic environment and green burial through partnership with the community and multimedia publicity campaigns.

Brief Description

- **15** The work involves:
- enhancing public awareness of the importance of food safety and empowering consumers to make informed choices;
- educating the public on their responsibility in maintaining a clean and hygienic living environment;
- organising targeted public education and publicity programmes to mobilise community involvement and support for activities in keeping the environment clean; and
- promoting green burial as a more sustainable form of disposal of cremated human ashes.

16 The Department disseminates food safety, keep clean and green burial messages through television and radio Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs), social media such as Facebook and YouTube, mobile applications, banners, posters, publicity stickers, pamphlets, leaflets and a publicity vehicle, as appropriate. In addition, talks and support are given at food safety and environmental hygiene activities organised by District Councils, non-governmental organisations, community groups and schools.

17 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	2017 (Actual)	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Plan)
primary and secondary schools approached for talks on food safety and environmental hygiene (%) responding to requests for information/	100	100	100	100
talks on food safety and environmental hygiene within one week (%) day care centres and residential care	100	100	100	100
homes for the elderly approached for talks on green burial (%)α publicity campaigns	100 3	N.A. 3	100 4	100 4

 α New target for green burial promotion as from 2018.

Indicators

	2017	2018	2019
	(Actual)	(Actual)	(Estimate)
seminars and activities for general public television APIs radio APIs outreaching programmes targeted at schools school talks on food safety and environmental hygiene	1 408 5 3 20 1 205	1 752# 4 5 20 1 200	1 710 4 20 1 200

Green burial promotion is included in this indicator starting from 2018.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019–20

18 During 2019–20, the Department will:

- continue to devise and implement a strategic plan for encouraging reduced intake of salt and sugars in food to promote a healthy diet;
- continue the efforts in promoting public health, environmental hygiene and food safety, with special emphasis on domestic hygiene, through seminars and activities; and
- step up promotion of green burial, particularly in respect of promotion of a central registration scheme.

Prog	gramme	2017–18 (Actual) (\$m)	2018–19 (Original) (\$m)	2018–19 (Revised) (\$m)	2019–20 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) (2)	Food Safety and Public Health	1,161.0	1,305.3	1,310.8	1,432.4
(3)	Services Market Management and Hawker	3,678.4	4,196.5	4,136.0	4,828.6
(4)	Control Public Education and Community	1,881.3	2,034.9	2,001.1	2,102.9
	Involvement	58.3	53.2	70.4	71.0
		6,779.0	7,589.9	7,518.3 (-0.9%)	8,434.9 (+12.2%)
					(or +11.1% on

ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

(or +11.1% on 2018–19 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2019–20 is \$121.6 million (9.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2018–19. This is mainly due to creation of new posts and increased operating expenses for strengthening food surveillance and complaint handling mechanism, digitalising food acquisition record for food imports to enhance food traceability, enhancing the food safety standards and risk communication capacity and compliance management, strengthening post-mortem services for live food animals, and enhancing pest control and prevention services. There will be a net increase of 37 posts.

Programme (2)

Provision for 2019–20 is \$692.6 million (16.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2018–19. This is mainly due to creation of new posts and increased operating expenses for keeping Hong Kong clean, stepping up law enforcement and intelligence support, regulating private columbaria, enhancing the protection of non-skilled workers employed by services contractors and other environmental hygiene services, as well as increased capital expenditure for the replacement of refuse collection vehicles and street washing vehicles, and maintenance of municipal facilities. There will be a net increase of 40 posts.

Programme (3)

Provision for 2019–20 is \$101.8 million (5.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 2018–19. This is mainly due to creation of new posts and increased operating expenses for planning new public markets and other municipal facilities, and implementing the Market Modernisation Programme. There will be a net increase of four posts.

Programme (4)

Provision for 2019–20 is 0.6 million (0.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2018–19. This is mainly due to creation of new posts and increased operating expenses for promoting green burials. There will be an increase of two posts.



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



Sub- head (Code))	Actual expenditure 2017–18	Approved estimate 2018–19	Revised estimate 2018–19	Estimate 2019–20
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
	Operating Account				
	Recurrent				
000	Operational expenses	6,609,134	7,321,578	7,286,014	8,087,342
	Total, Recurrent	6,609,134	7,321,578	7,286,014	8,087,342
	Non-Recurrent				
	General non-recurrent	38,700	21,731	28,668	
	Total, Non-Recurrent	38,700	21,731	28,668	
	Total, Operating Account	6,647,834	7,343,309	7,314,682	8,087,342
	Capital Account				
	Plant, Equipment and Works				
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)	131,180	246,569	203,651	347,567
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works	131,180	246,569	203,651	347,567
	Total, Capital Account	131,180	246,569	203,651	347,567
	Total Expenditure	6,779,014	7,589,878	7,518,333	8,434,909

Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2019–20 for the salaries and expenses of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is \$8,434,909,000. This represents an increase of \$916,576,000 over the revised estimate for 2018–19 and \$1,655,895,000 over the actual expenditure in 2017–18.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$8,087,342,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. The increase of \$801,328,000 (11%) over the revised estimate for 2018–19 is mainly due to the increased operating expenses for improving environmental cleanliness and public market facilities, implementation of the Private Columbaria Ordinance (Cap. 630), and further enhancing the food safety regime.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2019 will be 11 296 posts including four supernumerary posts. It is expected that there will be a net increase of 83 posts including one supernumerary post in 2019–20. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2019–20, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$3,737,538,000.

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

	2017–18 (Actual) (\$'000)	2018–19 (Original) (\$'000)	2018–19 (Revised) (\$'000)	2019–20 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries - Allowances - Job-related allowances	3,245,361 40,346 72,619	3,437,099 42,811 71,998	3,485,451 44,866 76,233	3,681,113 44,866 76,233
Personnel Related Expenses - Mandatory Provident Fund				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution - Civil Service Provident Fund	26,888	30,653	34,586	31,147
contribution Departmental Expenses	170,370	223,616	203,507	254,076
- General departmental expenses Other Charges	3,053,101	3,514,962	3,440,990	3,999,515
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission	449	439	381	392
	6,609,134	7,321,578	7,286,014	8,087,342

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

5 Provision of \$347,567,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents an increase of \$143,916,000 (70.7%) over the revised estimate for 2018–19. This is mainly due to increased funding requirement for replacement of specialised vehicles and other minor plant and equipment, and maintenance of municipal facilities.