

Head 162 — RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT

Controlling officer: the Commissioner of Rating and Valuation will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2020–21 **\$740.4m**

Establishment ceiling 2020–21 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 968 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2020 rising by 29 posts to 997 posts as at 31 March 2021..... **\$465.9m**

In addition, there will be an estimated 14 directorate posts as at 31 March 2020 and as at 31 March 2021.

Controlling Officer’s Report

Programmes

Programme (1) Statutory Valuation and Assessments	This programme contributes to Policy Area 25: Revenue Collection and Financial Control (Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury) and Policy Area 31: Housing (Secretary for Transport and Housing).
Programme (2) Collection and Billing of Rates and Government Rent	This programme contributes to Policy Area 25: Revenue Collection and Financial Control (Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury).
Programme (3) Provision of Valuation and Property Information Services	This programme contributes to Policy Area 27: Intra-Governmental Services (Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury) and Policy Area 31: Housing (Secretary for Transport and Housing).
Programme (4) Landlord and Tenant Services	This programme contributes to Policy Area 31: Housing (Secretary for Transport and Housing).

Detail

Programme (1): Statutory Valuation and Assessments

	2018–19 (Actual)	2019–20 (Original)	2019–20 (Revised)	2020–21 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	348.7	476.3	377.9 (–20.7%)	506.5 (+34.0%)
				(or +6.3% on 2019–20 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to establish and maintain a database showing all properties liable to Rates and/or Government Rent with their respective rateable values which are reviewed annually.

Brief Description

3 The Department:

- references properties, creates and maintains a database for them with a view to determining and updating their rateable values on an annual basis;
- compiles and maintains:
 - a Valuation List showing all rated properties together with their rateable values, on which Rates are charged at a percentage determined in accordance with the Rating Ordinance (Cap. 116); and
 - a Government Rent Roll for all properties assessed to Government Rent under the Government Rent (Assessment and Collection) Ordinance (Cap. 515) and their rateable values upon which Government Rent is charged at three per cent;
- reviews rateable values upon receipt of objections and appeals;
- processes applications for Rates and/or Government Rent exemption; and
- conducts a general revaluation of the rateable values of properties in the Valuation List and Government Rent Roll annually to reflect prevailing market rents.

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4 The key performance measures in respect of statutory valuation and assessments are:

Targets

	Target	2018–19 (Actual)	2019–20 (Revised Estimate)	2020–21 (Plan)
notifying the ratepayer and/or rentpayer of the rateable value of a new property within eight months from the date when Rates and/or Government Rent first become payable (%)	85	82	85	85
processing objections to new assessments within four months (%)#.....	90	99	90	90
processing objections to existing assessments within four months (%)#	85	89	85	85
keeping the no. of assessments unchallenged or remaining unchanged after objection review to not less than a set percentage of the assessments in the Valuation List (the set percentage)	no less than 95	99	99	99
allocating building numbers to new buildings not later than one month after their completion in urban areas (%)	95	100	95	95
allocating building numbers to new buildings not later than one month upon receipt of completion document in rural areas where there is an established numbering scheme (%)	90	100	90	90

The statutory requirement is to process objections within six months.

Indicators

	2018–19 (Actual)	2019–20 (Revised Estimate)	2020–21 (Estimate)
Valuation List for Rates			
assessments in the List at year end.....	2 531 346	2 570 000	2 610 000
new assessments added to the List.....	37 097	51 000	52 000
assessments deleted from the List.....	10 339	12 500	12 500
Government Rent Roll			
assessments in the Rent Roll at year end	1 975 993	2 010 000	2 045 000
new assessments added to the Rent Roll.....	30 321	43 000	44 000
assessments deleted from the Rent Roll.....	7 588	9 500	9 500
Valuation List for Rates and Government Rent Roll			
total assessments	4 507 339	4 580 000	4 655 000
assessments per post.....	7 758	7 710	7 669

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020–21

5 The Department will:

- continue the referencing and valuation of properties not yet assessed to Rates and/or Government Rent, and add them to the database;
- carry out the annual general revaluation to update rateable values to take effect from 1 April 2021; and
- continue the preparatory work to facilitate the introduction of “Special Rates” on vacant first-hand private residential units.

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Programme (2): Collection and Billing of Rates and Government Rent

	2018–19 (Actual)	2019–20 (Original)	2019–20 (Revised)	2020–21 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	73.9	81.2	84.7 (+4.3%)	91.8 (+8.4%)
				(or +13.1% on 2019–20 Original)

Aim

6 The aim is to levy Rates and charge Government Rent in accordance with the Rating Ordinance and the Government Rent (Assessment and Collection) Ordinance respectively.

Brief Description

7 The Department issues demand notes and maintains accounts for Rates and/or Government Rent for all properties included in the Valuation List and the Government Rent Roll. The Department also regularly reviews the Rating Ordinance and the Government Rent (Assessment and Collection) Ordinance, and updates procedures to ensure the timely collection of Rates and Government Rent and to improve services to the public.

8 The key performance measures in respect of collection and billing of Rates and Government Rent are:

Targets

	Target	2018–19 (Actual)	2019–20 (Revised Estimate)	2020–21 (Plan)
collection of Rates				
keeping the amount of arrears within a set percentage of the Rates demanded for the preceding 12 months (the set percentage).....	no more than 0.9	0.4	0.7	0.9
collection of Government Rent				
keeping the amount of arrears within a set percentage of the Government Rent demanded for the preceding 12 months (the set percentage).....	no more than 1.1	0.6	1.0	1.1

Indicators

	2018–19 (Actual)	2019–20 (Revised Estimate)	2020–21 (Estimate)
Rates and Government Rent accounts maintained.....	2 612 509	2 640 000	2 705 000
Rates and Government Rent accounts per post.....	26 125	25 882	26 010

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020–21

9 The Department will continue to:

- remind payers of their responsibility for timely settlement of Rates and Government Rent and the consequences of late payment; and
- review and enhance its Accounting and Billing System to speed up the recovery of arrears and to identify areas for improvement in service delivery.

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Programme (3): Provision of Valuation and Property Information Services

	2018–19 (Actual)	2019–20 (Original)	2019–20 (Revised)	2020–21 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	93.2	98.8	102.6 (+3.8%)	106.7 (+4.0%)
				(or +8.0% on 2019–20 Original)

Aim

10 The aim is to provide valuation and property information services to government bureaux and departments, the private sector and the general public.

Brief Description

11 The main activities involved are:

- providing property valuation advice to the Inland Revenue Department to facilitate the collection of stamp duty and estate duty;
- providing valuation advice to government bureaux and departments to assist them in formulating policies and in their day-to-day work;
- compiling and publishing property market information on a regular basis, and providing property-related information to government bureaux and departments to facilitate policy review and formulation; and
- providing enquiry service on property information to the public.

12 The key performance measures in respect of provision of valuation and property information services are:

Targets

	Target	2018–19 (Actual)	2019–20 (Revised Estimate)	2020–21 (Plan)
notifying the Inland Revenue Department of valuation on stamp duty cases within four months (%).....	85	85	85	85
notifying the Inland Revenue Department of valuation on estate duty cases within six months (%)^.....	85	94	85	85
notifying other client departments of valuation advice within four months (%).....	90	97	90	90
publishing the monthly property market statistics within six weeks following the end of the month (%).....	100	100	100	100

Indicators

	2018–19 (Actual)	2019–20 (Revised Estimate)	2020–21 (Estimate)
stamp duty cases scrutinised where stated consideration is considered adequate.....	88 544	92 000	92 000
stamp duty cases scrutinised where stated consideration is considered inadequate.....	4 130	4 900	4 900
valuations provided for stamp duty cases without stated consideration.....	4 289	5 200	5 200
valuations provided for estate duty purposes^.....	424	600	600
valuations on stamp duty and estate duty cases per post	1 146	1 194	1 194
other valuations and rental advice cases provided	23 721	26 000	29 000
other valuations and rental advice cases per post.....	484	531	592

^ Although estate duty was abolished on 11 February 2006, there are still some outstanding cases to be processed.

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Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020–21

13 The Department will continue to:

- provide property-related information to government bureaux and departments to facilitate their policy review and formulation; and
- review and enhance its computer systems to enrich the textual and graphic repository of property information, so as to improve the efficiency of data retrieval and transfer among the parties concerned, including government departments and agencies.

Programme (4): Landlord and Tenant Services

	2018–19 (Actual)	2019–20 (Original)	2019–20 (Revised)	2020–21 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	32.9	33.5	34.9 (+4.2%)	35.4 (+1.4%)
				(or +5.7% on 2019–20 Original)

Aim

14 The Department assists landlords and tenants in accordance with the Landlord and Tenant (Consolidation) Ordinance (Cap. 7) (LTCO). It also provides advisory and mediatory services to the public on tenancy matters.

Brief Description

15 The main activities involved are:

- administering the provisions of the LTCO, including processing applications and notifications made under the LTCO;
- monitoring the operation of the LTCO by conducting surveys and reviews, and making recommendations to the Secretary for Transport and Housing as and when necessary for improving tenancy arrangements under the LTCO; and
- providing the public with advisory and mediatory services on tenancy matters.

16 The key performance measures in respect of landlord and tenant services are:

Targets

	Target	2018–19 (Actual)	2019–20 (Revised Estimate)	2020–21 (Plan)
endorsing a notice of new letting or lease renewal within one month (%)	99	100	99	99
issuing a substantive reply to a written or electronic enquiry on tenancy matters within 14 days (%).....	90	100	90	90

Indicators

	2018–19 (Actual)	2019–20 (Revised Estimate)	2020–21 (Estimate)
applications and notices processed.....	55 139	56 000	56 000
enquiries handled	110 464	130 000	130 000
applications, notices and enquiries processed per post	2 671	3 000	3 000

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020–21

17 The Department will continue to administer the provisions of the LTCO.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

	2018–19 (Actual) (\$m)	2019–20 (Original) (\$m)	2019–20 (Revised) (\$m)	2020–21 (Estimate) (\$m)
Programme				
(1) Statutory Valuation and Assessments	348.7	476.3	377.9	506.5
(2) Collection and Billing of Rates and Government Rent	73.9	81.2	84.7	91.8
(3) Provision of Valuation and Property Information Services	93.2	98.8	102.6	106.7
(4) Landlord and Tenant Services.....	32.9	33.5	34.9	35.4
	548.7	689.8	600.1 (–13.0%)	740.4 (+23.4%)
				(or +7.3% on 2019–20 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2020–21 is \$128.6 million (34.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2019–20. This is mainly due to increased salary provision for an increase of 27 posts, possible refund of overcharged interest in respect of some appeal cases on Government Rent and increase in departmental expenses.

Programme (2)

Provision for 2020–21 is \$7.1 million (8.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2019–20. This is mainly due to increased salary provision for an increase of two posts, salary increments for staff and increase in departmental expenses.

Programme (3)

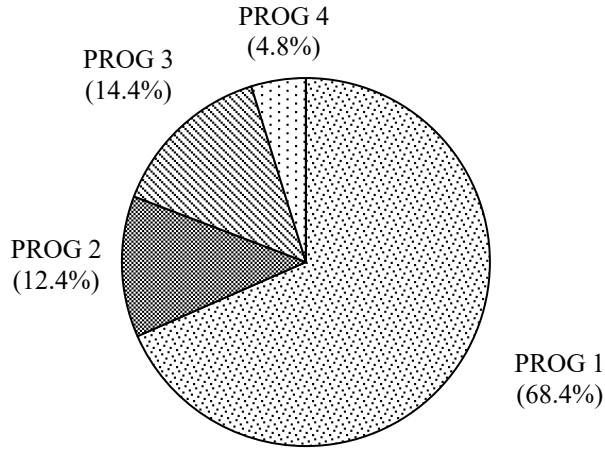
Provision for 2020–21 is \$4.1 million (4.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2019–20. This is mainly due to salary increments for staff and increase in departmental expenses.

Programme (4)

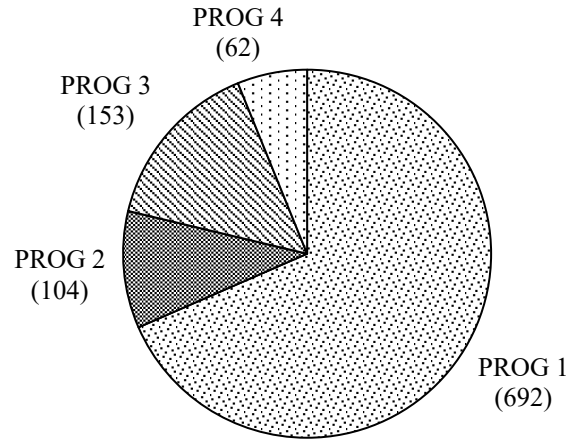
Provision for 2020–21 is \$0.5 million (1.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2019–20. This is mainly due to salary increments for staff.

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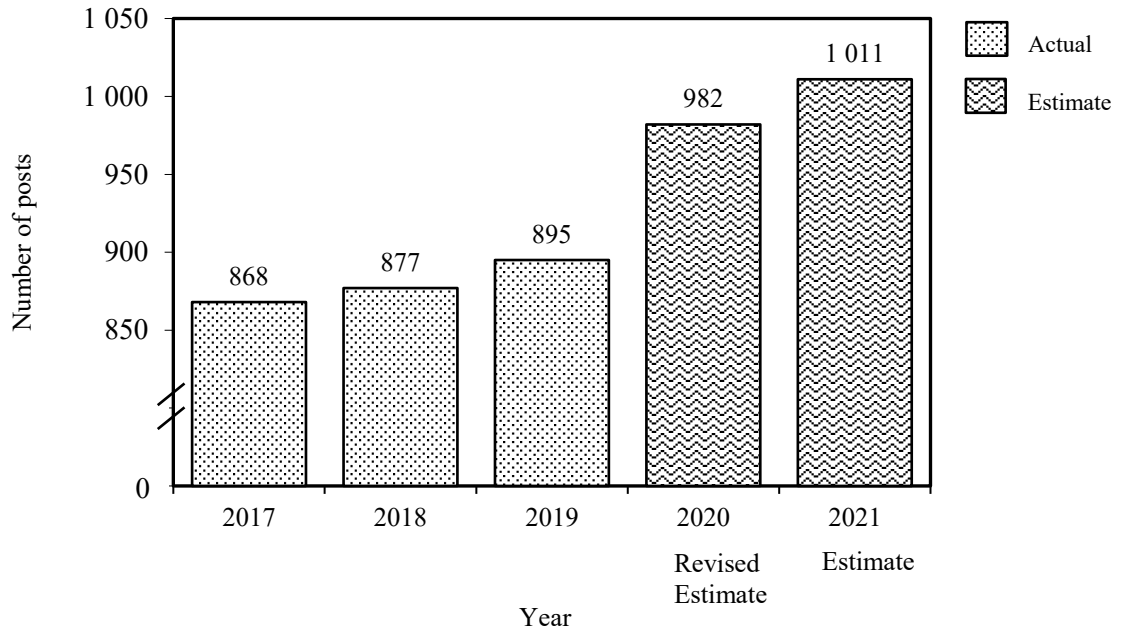
Allocation of provision to programmes (2020-21)



Staff by programme (as at 31 March 2021)



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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2018–19	Approved estimate 2019–20	Revised estimate 2019–20	Estimate 2020–21	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	547,679	689,846	600,133	738,740
	Total, Recurrent.....	547,679	689,846	600,133	738,740
	Total, Operating Account	547,679	689,846	600,133	738,740
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Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	1,068	—	—	1,648
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	1,068	—	—	1,648
	Total, Capital Account.....	1,068	—	—	1,648
<hr/>					
	Total Expenditure	548,747	689,846	600,133	740,388
		<u>548,747</u>	<u>689,846</u>	<u>600,133</u>	<u>740,388</u>

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2020–21 for the salaries and expenses of the Rating and Valuation Department is \$740,388,000. This represents an increase of \$140,255,000 over the revised estimate for 2019–20 and \$191,641,000 over the actual expenditure in 2018–19.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$738,740,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Rating and Valuation Department. This represents an increase of \$138,607,000 (23.1%) over the revised estimate for 2019–20. This is mainly due to increased provision for filling of vacancies and new posts in 2020–21 and increased requirement for departmental expenses in connection with the preparatory work for the introduction of “Special Rates” on vacant first-hand private residential units.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2020 will be 982 permanent posts. It is expected that there will be an increase of 29 permanent posts in 2020–21. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2020–21, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$465,922,000.

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

	2018–19 (Actual) (\$'000)	2019–20 (Original) (\$'000)	2019–20 (Revised) (\$'000)	2020–21 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries.....	443,250	498,904	466,175	513,499
- Allowances.....	5,258	7,671	7,648	8,464
- Job-related allowances.....	15	25	14	25
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	1,814	3,005	2,260	3,562
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	14,866	18,814	17,851	22,310
Departmental Expenses				
- Temporary staff.....	20,478	28,375	38,423	41,796
- General departmental expenses	61,998	133,052	67,762	149,084
	547,679	689,846	600,133	738,740

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

5 Provision of \$1,648,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* is for replacement of minor plant and equipment.