

Head 23 — AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE

Controlling officer: the Chief Staff Officer of the Auxiliary Medical Service will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2022–23 **\$108.1m**

Establishment ceiling 2022–23 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 98 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2022 and as at 31 March 2023 **\$36.8m**

In addition, there will be an estimated one directorate post as at 31 March 2022 and as at 31 March 2023.

Controlling Officer's Report

Programme

Auxiliary Medical Service

This programme contributes to Policy Area 9: Internal Security (Secretary for Security).

Detail

	2020–21 (Actual)	2021–22 (Original)	2021–22 (Revised)	2022–23 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	91.3	114.1	114.1 (—)	108.1 (–5.3%)
				(or –5.3% on 2021–22 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to augment the existing medical and health services for maintaining the healthcare and well-being of the territory, especially in times of emergency, having regard to internal security considerations.

Brief Description

3 The Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) is responsible for providing volunteer medical services to assist the Department of Health, the Hospital Authority and the Fire Services Department during emergency situations, as well as supplementary volunteer medical services to government departments and outside agencies during peace time. It also provides paramedic training to disciplined services staff and other appropriate civil servants to enhance their operational efficiency and effectiveness. Apart from operational duties, AMS is also committed to various youth development programmes via its Cadet Corps service.

4 In 2021–22, the Department continued to provide an effective volunteer medical service to complement the regular services of various government departments and outside agencies. During the year, the following services were provided to meet demands:

- a large variety of services to combat COVID-19 such as conveyance of close contacts, medical service at quarantine centres, evacuation of institutes, enforcement of Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599), etc.;
- non-emergency ambulance transfer service to clients referred by Department of Health clinics, Hospital Authority clinics, Social Welfare Department institutions and private hospitals;
- manning of first aid posts at public functions and country parks;
- certificate courses on paramedic training and short courses on first aid for civil servants;
- manning 19 methadone clinics for Department of Health, and providing clinical service to this category of patients;
- life-guard services for the Leisure and Cultural Services Department;
- training for the AMS volunteers in connection with various contingency plans related to internal security; and
- through the Cadet Corps which has 2 293 cadets as at 31 December 2021, provide health-care focused whole-person development training for the youth aged between 12 and 17 by the newly launched programme “Health Awareness and Promotion Programme for Youth” (HAPPY). The programme will equip the youth with professional medical knowledge and skills relating to public hygiene and health.

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5 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target man-hour	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Plan)
general regular training	240 000	88 892λ	110 528λ	240 000λ
recruit training	28 000	6 431λ	9 874λ	28 000λ
centralised training	50 000	44 834	47 805	50 000
civil service training	152 000	52 624	147 592	152 000
supplementary services	243 000	359 008	562 566Ψ	243 000
non-emergency ambulance transfer service	54 000	55 567	53 695	54 000
cadet induction training	23 000	6 016λ	16 384λ	23 000λ
cadet general regular training	130 000	14 241	145 773	130 000
cadet centralised training	55 000	6 103λ	31 680λ	55 000λ
cadet exercise and visit	55 000	5 951λ	30 159λ	55 000λ

Ψ The substantial increase is due to the heavy involvement in COVID-19 related operations.

Indicators

	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Estimate)
emergency services			
no. of man-hours for emergency duties (serious traffic accidents, disastrous fires, typhoons, rainstorms and major epidemics)	4 744	5 713Ω	4 500
no. of occasions of call-outs/operations in emergency duties	42	38◇	10
members attending regular training	3 931λ	3 716λ	4 450λ
new members recruited	87λ	171λ	420λ
new cadets recruited	188λ	512λ	700λ
members attending centralised training	8 091	9 272	7 500
civil servants attending paramedic training			
first aid qualifying course	1 778λ	5 211λ	6 000λ
other certificate/short courses	1 056λ	2 195	1 800
supplementary services			
response to ambulance calls	1 410	1 943	1 100
coverage at public functions	549λ	1 114λ	2 400λ
cases treated on country park duty	3 361	4 054	3 600
response to non-emergency ambulance transfer requests	10 330	9 944	12 000

λ The figures in 2020 and 2021 were seriously affected by COVID-19 as recruitment of both adult members and cadets, training, regular first aid duties and public functions were disrupted. The figures in 2022 are expected to increase in anticipation of the gradual resumption of recruitment, training and public functions from the impact of COVID-19.

Ω The figure includes two typhoon manning operations conducted in 2021.

◇ The figure includes emergency evacuation in COVID-19 operations in 2021.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022–23

6 During 2022–23 the Department will:

- enhance the volunteers' operational efficiency and emergency preparedness for infectious disease pandemic;
- provide paramedic training to cope with infectious disease prevention and control;
- continue to recruit members to the Cadet Corps with the ultimate goal of recruiting a force of 3 000 cadets and impart professional medical knowledge and skills relating to public hygiene and health to the youth aged between 12 and 17 through the new programme "HAPPY";
- provide decontamination training to AMS members on proper response to nuclear emergencies at various discharge points and contact points in remote areas as well as monitoring centres territory-wide; and
- provide national security education to AMS adult members and cadets.

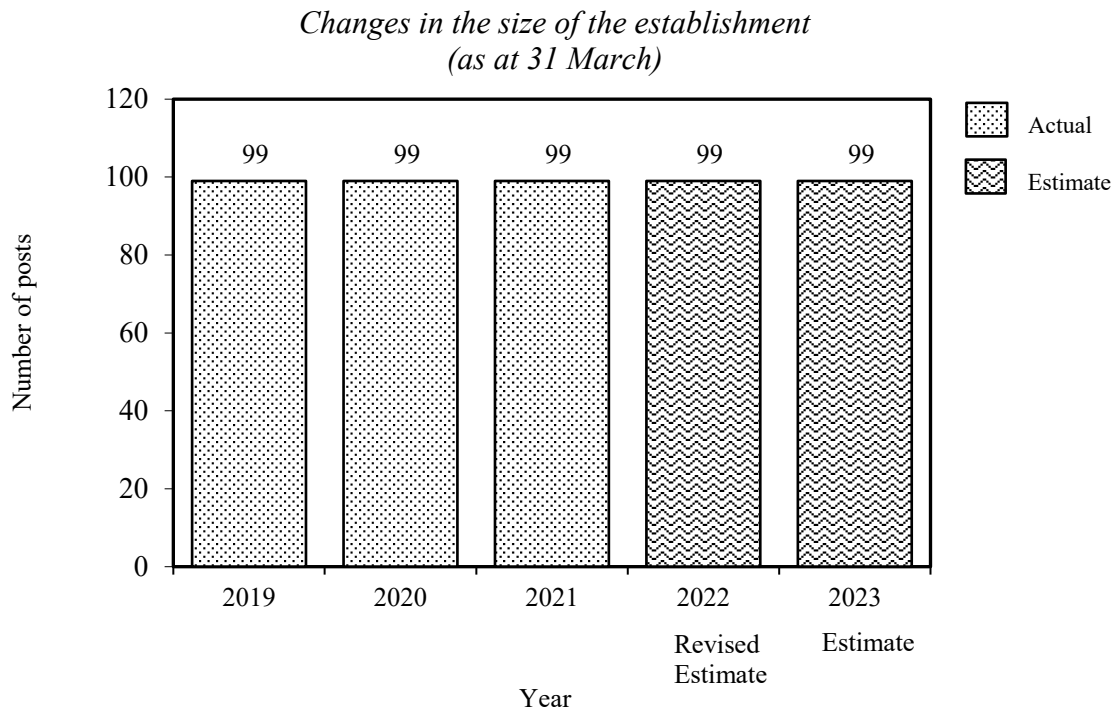
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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2020–21 (Actual) (\$m)	2021–22 (Original) (\$m)	2021–22 (Revised) (\$m)	2022–23 (Estimate) (\$m)
Auxiliary Medical Service	91.3	114.1	114.1 (—)	108.1 (–5.3%)
				(or –5.3% on 2021–22 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2022–23 is \$6.0 million (5.3%) lower than the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to decreased cash flow requirement for general departmental expenses in 2022–23.



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Sub-head (Code)		Actual expenditure 2020–21	Approved estimate 2021–22	Revised estimate 2021–22	Estimate 2022–23
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Operating Account					
	Recurrent				
000	Operational expenses	90,514	111,165	110,294	104,308
	Total, Recurrent.....	90,514	111,165	110,294	104,308
	Total, Operating Account	90,514	111,165	110,294	104,308
Capital Account					
	Plant, Equipment and Works				
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	826	2,943	3,814	3,841
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	826	2,943	3,814	3,841
	Total, Capital Account.....	826	2,943	3,814	3,841
	Total Expenditure	91,340	114,108	114,108	108,149

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2022–23 for the salaries and expenses of the Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) is \$108,149,000. This represents a decrease of \$5,959,000 against the revised estimate for 2021–22 and an increase of \$16,809,000 over the actual expenditure in 2020–21.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$104,308,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the AMS.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2022 will be 99 posts. No change in establishment is expected in 2022–23. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2022–23, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$36,825,000.

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

	2020–21 (Actual) (\$'000)	2021–22 (Original) (\$'000)	2021–22 (Revised) (\$'000)	2022–23 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	38,438	41,117	39,863	40,782
- Allowances	258	376	537	500
- Job-related allowances.....	52	69	92	70
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	107	84	141	149
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	2,758	3,516	3,073	3,776
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	27,320	18,640	25,881	17,213
Other Charges				
- Pay and allowances for the auxiliary services.....	20,632	44,691	39,035	40,096
- Training expenses for the auxiliary services.....	949	2,672	1,672	1,722
	<u>90,514</u>	<u>111,165</u>	<u>110,294</u>	<u>104,308</u>