

Head 27 — CIVIL AID SERVICE

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

Estimate 2022–23	\$129.6m
Establishment ceiling 2022–23 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 109 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2022 reducing by one post to 108 posts as at 31 March 2023	\$44.7m

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

Civil Aid 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)	100.5	142.7	133.2 (–6.7%)	129.6 (–2.7%)
				(or –9.2% on 2021–22 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to provide an effective auxiliary force, which has 3 231 officers/members as at 31 December 2021, to augment the Government’s regular emergency services in emergency situations, to provide civic services to government departments and outside agencies, and to provide young people with the opportunity to develop self-confidence and civic-mindedness through participation in the Civil Aid Service (CAS) Cadet Corps.

Brief Description

3 CAS is responsible for providing emergency and civic services to government departments, outside agencies and the general public. This work involves:

- providing support to the Government’s regular emergency services in counter-disaster activities, mountain search and rescue, and countryside protection duties;
- providing crowd control and crowd management services in major public functions;
- assisting people in need of help in country parks and hiking trails;
- staging performances to enhance public attention at major campaigns or activities organised by government departments and outside agencies; and
- providing, through the CAS Cadet Corps which has 3 800 cadets as at 31 December 2021, youth aged between 12 and 17 with specific training in discipline and skills, and an orientation towards civic duty.

4 In 2021–22, CAS continued to provide efficient and effective auxiliary emergency and civic services to government departments and outside agencies. These services included typhoon duties; flood rescue; mountain search and rescue; countryside fire fighting and protection; community services; training on mountain rescue, hiking safety and work safety at height; and contingency response training to handle radiological incidents. For prevention of spread of communicable diseases, CAS provided support to the Department of Health in combatting COVID-19. As at 31 December 2021, CAS had deployed about 173 000 man-shifts to man various quarantine centres round-the-clock since 23 January 2020.

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5 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target man-hour	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Plan)
providing standby teams on Sundays and general holidays for immediate deployment to handle emergencies (mountain search and rescue, countryside fire fighting)	32 000	22 000#	31 000	32 000
providing crowd management services for major public functions	78 000	24 000#	30 000#	40 000Ω
patrolling the country parks and hiking trails	44 000	12 000#	43 000	44 000
providing performances for the public in major government campaigns and activities	6 000	1 000#	1 600#	1 600Ω
providing full-time and part-time training for CAS members through the CAS Training School	72 000	22 000#	82 000^	72 000
providing full-time and part-time training for CAS cadets in skills and discipline through the CAS Training School	85 000	10 000#	48 000#	48 000Ω
providing recreational and social activities for CAS cadets	125 000	11 000#	63 000#	63 000Ω
providing community services by CAS cadets	20 000	1 400#	5 000#	5 000Ω
providing training on mountain rescue, hiking safety and work safety at height for staff of government departments and non-governmental organisations and public educationθ	20 000	2 500#	26 000Δ	26 000α

The actual figure is lower than the target mainly due to cancellation of public events, functions, training and activities in 2020 and 2021 as a result of COVID-19.

Ω The estimated figure in 2022 is lower than the target mainly due to fewer public events/functions, performances, training and activities anticipated as a result of COVID-19.

^ The increase in 2021 was due to training deferred from 2020 to 2021 as a result of COVID-19.

θ Revised description of the previous target “providing training on mountain rescue, hiking safety and work safety at height for staff of government departments and non-governmental organisations” in view of the introduction of public education programme since 2021.

α The estimated figure in 2022 is higher than the target mainly due to the introduction of public education programme for the public, partly offset by the anticipated cancellation of training for government departments and non-governmental organisations as a result of COVID-19.

Indicators

	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Estimate)
no. of occasions of call-out operations in emergency duties			
mountain search and rescue	72	81	100
countryside fire fighting	2	0	10
typhoons, flooding, mudslip and others	3	2	5
no. of occasions of crowd management and other civic duties	52	58	60
no. of performances in major government campaigns and activities	5	11β	20
no. of full-time and part-time training courses for CAS members through the CAS Training School	95	170β	170
no. of full-time and part-time training courses for CAS cadets through the CAS Training School	58	212β	220
no. of recreational and social activities for CAS cadets	46	281β	300

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	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Estimate)
no. of community services activities by CAS cadets	12	67 ^β	70
no. of training courses/activities on mountain rescue, hiking safety and work safety at height for staff of government departments and non-governmental organisations and public education ^φ	5	95 ^Δ	100

^β The increase was due to the progressive resumption of events, trainings and activities in 2021.

^φ Revised description of the previous indicator “no. of training courses/activities on mountain rescue, hiking safety and work safety at height for staff of government departments and non-governmental organisations” in view of the introduction of public education programme since 2021.

^Δ The increase was mainly due to the introduction of public education programme for the public, partly offset by the cancellation of training for government departments and non-governmental organisations as a result of COVID-19.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022–23

6 During 2022–23, CAS will continue to provide staff and auxiliary officers with training conducted by professional bodies in disaster management, operating automated external defibrillators, tree cutting and flood rescue. CAS will continue to support the Government in combatting COVID-19 by manning quarantine centres. To further enhance the promotion of youth engagement, CAS will continue to conduct a public education programme for the younger generations in Hong Kong; the “seamless transition” programme will also be carried on to facilitate CAS cadets to become adult members.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

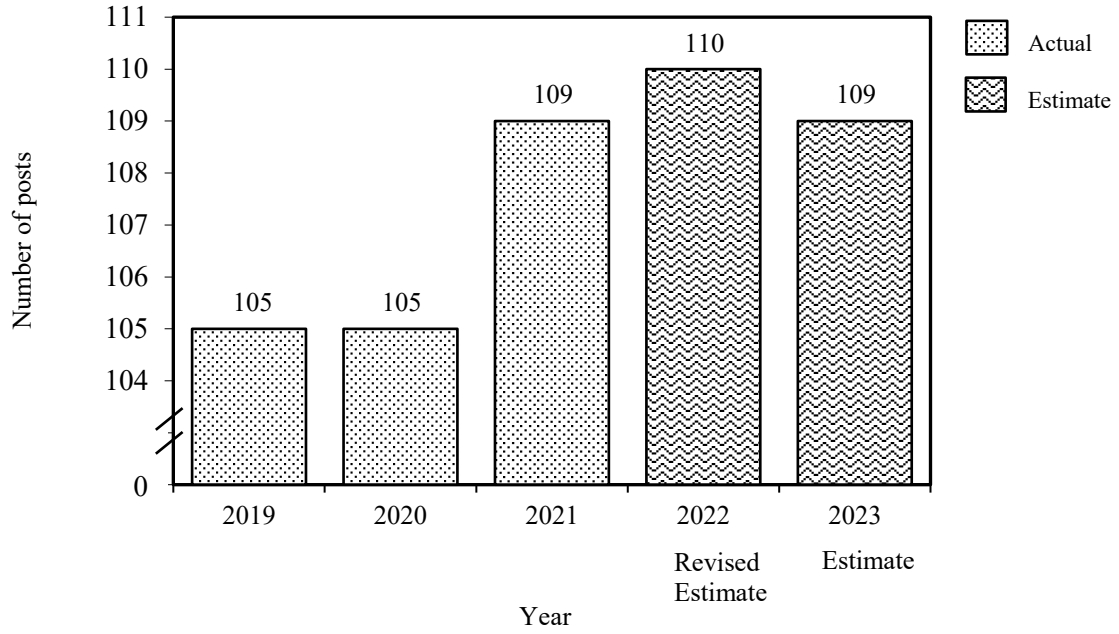
	2020–21 (Actual) (\$m)	2021–22 (Original) (\$m)	2021–22 (Revised) (\$m)	2022–23 (Estimate) (\$m)
Programme				
Civil Aid Service	100.5	142.7	133.2 (-6.7%)	129.6 (-2.7%)
				(or -9.2% on 2021–22 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2022–23 is \$3.6 million (2.7%) lower than the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to the decreased cash flow requirement for acquisition and replacement of equipment, partly offset by the increased provision for salaries for vacant posts anticipated to be filled in 2022–23.

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



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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	95,418	132,267	123,574	124,421
	Total, Recurrent.....	95,418	132,267	123,574	124,421
	Total, Operating Account	95,418	132,267	123,574	124,421
Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	5,122	10,405	9,617	5,214
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	5,122	10,405	9,617	5,214
	Total, Capital Account.....	5,122	10,405	9,617	5,214
	 Total Expenditure	 100,540	 142,672	 133,191	 129,635

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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 Civil Aid Service (CAS) is \$129,635,000. This represents a decrease of \$3,556,000 against the revised estimate for 2021–22 and an increase of \$29,095,000 over the actual expenditure in 2020–21.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$124,421,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the CAS.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2022 will be 110 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of one post 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 \$44,698,000.

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	41,990	50,641	42,357	46,739
- Allowances	1,459	1,523	1,407	1,206
- Job-related allowances.....	42	12	23	12
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	217	134	192	124
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	2,170	4,137	2,654	3,712
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	31,435	31,490	35,944	29,624
Other Charges				
- Pay and allowances for the auxiliary services.....	15,506	41,675	37,201	40,709
- Training expenses for the auxiliary services.....	2,599	2,655	3,796	2,295
	95,418	132,267	123,574	124,421

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

5 Provision of \$5,214,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents a decrease of \$4,403,000 (45.8%) against the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to the decreased cash flow requirement for acquisition and replacement of equipment in 2022–23.