

Head 70 — IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

Controlling officer: the Director of Immigration will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2022–23 **\$6,942.5m**

Establishment ceiling 2022–23 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 9 209 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2022 reducing by 249 posts to 8 960 posts as at 31 March 2023 **\$4,818.7m**

In addition, there will be an estimated 14 directorate posts as at 31 March 2022 rising by one post to 15 posts as at 31 March 2023.

Commitment balance..... **\$72.1m**

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

Programme (1) Pre-entry Control
Programme (2) Control upon Entry
Programme (3) Control after Entry
Programme (4) Personal Documentation
Programme (5) Nationality and Assistance
to HKSAR Residents
outside Hong Kong

These programmes contribute to Policy Area 10: Immigration Control (Secretary for Security).

Detail

Programme (1): Pre-entry Control

	2020–21 (Actual)	2021–22 (Original)	2021–22 (Revised)	2022–23 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	383.7	408.3	393.0 (–3.7%)	416.9 (+6.1%)
				(or +2.1% on 2021–22 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to control, through the visa and entry permit system, legal immigration and the entry of non-local persons to Hong Kong and to prevent the entry of undesirable persons.

Brief Description

3 The Visa Control (Policies) Division and Visa Control (Operations) Division of the Department deal with all aspects of pre-entry immigration control through the visa and entry permit systems and related petitions/appeals/judicial reviews. The work involves:

- adopting an open immigration regime to facilitate entry of talent, professionals and entrepreneurs;
- processing applications for entry into Hong Kong for employment, investment, training, residence and study in accordance with prevailing policies and procedures;
- facilitating entry of bona-fide tourists and business visitors through the issue of visas, visit permits, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Travel Passes and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Travel Cards;
- processing applications for Pre-arrival Registration for Taiwan residents by electronic means to facilitate Taiwan visitors to come to Hong Kong;
- processing applications for Pre-arrival Registration for Indian nationals by electronic means to strengthen immigration control and to facilitate entry of bona-fide Indian visitors;
- processing applications for Certificate of Entitlement to the right of abode in Hong Kong;
- issuing entry permits to Mainland fisherman deckhands entering Hong Kong on board dual registered vessels for unloading catches in local fish markets under the Mainland Fisherman Deckhand Scheme;
- preventing the entry of undesirable persons who are likely to pose a threat to the security, prosperity and well-being of Hong Kong;

Head 70 — IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

- examining critically the bona fides of non-local persons seeking to enter Hong Kong; and
- processing petitions/appeals/judicial reviews on visa control and Certificate of Entitlement matters.

4 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Plan)
average processing time (upon receipt of all supporting documents)				
entry visas and permits for visit within four weeks (%)	100	100	100	100
entry visas and permits for employment within four weeks (%)	90.0	98.9	99.0	99.0
entry permits under the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals within four weeks (%)	90.0	99.8	99.9	99.0
other entry visas and permits within six weeks (%)	90.0	99.3	99.2	99.0
visit permits and Pre-arrival Registration for Taiwan residents within two working days (%)	100	100	100	100
change of status within six weeks (%)	90	100	100	100

Indicators

	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Estimate)
no. of applications			
entry visa			
received	179 922Δ	186 719Δ	186 700Δ
processedΩ	178 186Δ	190 139Δ	186 700Δ
visit visa			
received	5 820Δ	987Δ	1 000Δ
processedΩ	6 038Δ	1 031Δ	1 000Δ
visit permit for Taiwan residents			
received	8Δ	3Δ	5Δ
processedΩ	8Δ	3Δ	5Δ
Pre-arrival Registration for Taiwan residents			
received	16 298Δ	1 433Δ	1 400Δ
processed	16 298Δ	1 433Δ	1 400Δ
Pre-arrival Registration for Indian nationals			
received	23 414Δ	2 445Δ	2 400Δ
processed	23 414Δ	2 445Δ	2 400Δ
APEC Business Travel Card - local applications			
received	4 133Δ	4 226Δ	4 200Δ
processedΩ	4 404Δ	4 379Δ	4 200Δ
APEC Business Travel Card - referral applications			
received	29 701Δ	20 677Δ	20 700Δ
processedΩ	31 129Δ	19 849Δ	20 700Δ
HKSAR Travel Pass			
received	55Δ	15Δ	20Δ
processedΩ	81Δ	21Δ	20Δ
change of status			
received	7 393	8 507	8 500
processedΩ	7 360	8 462	8 500
entry permit for Mainland fisherman deckhands			
received	5 265	4 924	4 900
processedΩ	5 270	4 883	4 900
petition/appeal/judicial review			
received	42	51	50
processedΩ	44	47	50

Head 70 — IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Estimate)
Certificate of Entitlement received.....	1 726Δ	1 402Δ	1 400Δ
processedΩ.....	3 595	1 538Δ	1 400Δ

Δ Substantial decrease in the number of applications received/processed due to COVID-19.

Ω The number of applications processed includes outstanding applications brought forward from the previous year.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022–23

5 During 2022–23, the Department will:

- continue to provide immigration facilitation to support the policy objective of attracting and retaining outside talent, professionals and entrepreneurs to support the economic development of Hong Kong;
- continue to implement the Information Technology Infrastructure in meeting rising service demands in Programmes (1) to (5);
- continue to implement the Next Generation Application and Investigation Easy Systems to enhance operational efficiency and effectiveness in supporting services in Programmes (1) to (5) including visa and permit applications of visitors or non-permanent Hong Kong residents; assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress outside Hong Kong; birth, death and marriage registrations; right of abode applications; enforcement and investigation cases in relation to immigration offenders, removees and deportees; handling of non-refoulement claims, as well as related appeals / petitions and judicial reviews; and the removal of unsuccessful claimants; and
- develop the Advance Passenger Information system for fulfilling the international obligation of the HKSAR under the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

Programme (2): Control upon Entry

	2020–21 (Actual)	2021–22 (Original)	2021–22 (Revised)	2022–23 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	3,245.5	3,671.0	3,516.3 (–4.2%)	3,798.7 (+8.0%)
				(or +3.5% on 2021–22 Original)

Aim

6 The aims are to exercise quantitative and qualitative control over legal immigration; prevent the entry of undesirable persons and the departure of persons wanted for criminal offences; facilitate the movement of bona-fide tourists, business visitors and local residents; and process cross-boundary vehicles.

Brief Description

7 The Border (Rail), Border (Vehicles), Harbour and Airport Divisions of the Department are responsible for operations at all control points of entry into and exit from Hong Kong via land, sea or air. The Border (Rail) Division comprises four land boundary control points, serving railway passengers at Lo Wu, Hung Hom, Lok Ma Chau Spur Line and West Kowloon Station of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link. The Border (Vehicles) Division covers six land boundary control points at Lok Ma Chau, Man Kam To, Sha Tau Kok, Shenzhen Bay, Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port and Heung Yuen Wai, serving cross-boundary passengers and vehicles. There is also a clearance centre at San Uk Ling which deals with the processing and repatriation of illegal immigrants from the Mainland. Immigration control over people movements by passenger liners and ferries to and from the Mainland and Macao is carried out at various ferry terminals. The Kai Tak Cruise Terminal provides immigration clearance to passengers and crew members travelling by cruise liners. Control over other types of sea traffic is usually carried out at the Eastern, Western and Tuen Mun Immigration Anchorages. Operations at the Airport enforce immigration control over passengers and aircrew entering and leaving Hong Kong by air. There are designated detention quarters in the China, Macau and Tuen Mun Ferry Terminals, the Harbour Control Section, the River Trade Terminal, the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal, the Lok Ma Chau Spur Line, West Kowloon Station of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, Shenzhen Bay, Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port and Heung Yuen Wai control points and the Airport for detaining passengers and undesirable persons who have been refused entry and are pending removal. The work involves:

- examining incoming passengers, crew, vehicles and craft in a courteous and efficient manner to detect illegal immigrants, criminals and undesirable persons;

Head 70 — IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

- examining outgoing passengers, crew, vehicles and craft in a courteous and efficient manner to detect immigration offenders and persons wanted for criminal offences; and
- repatriating illegal immigrants, individuals refused landing and undesirable persons in an efficient and reasonable manner.

8 The Border (Rail), Border (Vehicles), Harbour and Airport Divisions of the Department strive to provide efficient immigration clearance and combat the use of forged travel documents.

9 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Plan)
clearing visitors within a 30-minute waiting time in the case of travelling by land (%).....	95.0	99.9#	100#	99.9
sea (%).....	95	100#	N.A.#	100
clearing visitors within a 15-minute waiting time in the case of travelling by air (%).....	95	100#	100#	100
clearing residents within a 15-minute waiting time in the case of travelling by land (%).....	98	100#	100#	100
sea (%).....	98	100#	100#	100
air (%).....	98	100#	100#	100

Indicators

	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Estimate)
passengers/vehicles/vessels examined			
land.....	24 668 531#	7 175 100#	14 060 000
sea.....	3 121 013#	1 978 266#	2 660 000
air.....	5 711 686#	677 540#	850 000
visitors/seamen refused entry.....	9 387#	1 187#	2 000
secondary examination.....	131 894#	45 681#	88 000

In response to the development of COVID-19, the Government of the HKSAR has suspended passenger clearance services at most of the control points in phases with effect from the end of January 2020. The details are as follows:

- West Kowloon Station of the Guangdong-Shenzhen Hong Kong Express Rail Link, Hung Hom, Man Kam To, Sha Tau Kok and China Ferry Terminal (with effect from 30 January 2020);
- Lo Wu, Lok Ma Chau Spur Line, Lok Ma Chau and Macau Ferry Terminal (with effect from 4 February 2020);
- Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal (with effect from 30 January 2020 and ceased operation formally on 8 June 2021); and
- Kai Tak Cruise Terminal (suspended with effect from the afternoon of 5 February 2020 and resumed for Hong Kong residents joining the “cruise-to-nowhere” itineraries from 30 July 2021).

The Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point commenced operation on 26 August 2020 with only cargo clearance service available at present.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022–23

10 During 2022–23, the Department will:

- continue to implement the complementary immigration measures on non-local pregnant visitors coming to give birth in Hong Kong;
- continue to implement facilitation measures to ease the immigration clearance for cross-boundary students at control points;
- prepare for the extension of the operating hours for passenger clearance of the Shenzhen Bay Control Point to 24 hours;

Head 70 — IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

- prepare for the extension of operating hours for cargo clearance of the Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point to 24 hours and the commissioning of the passenger clearance facilities thereat; and
- prepare for the resumption of passenger clearance at suspended control points.

Programme (3): Control after Entry

	2020–21 (Actual)	2021–22 (Original)	2021–22 (Revised)	2022–23 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	1,195.2	1,219.0	1,178.8 (–3.3%)	1,250.4 (+6.1%)
				(or +2.6% on 2021–22 Original)

Aim

11 The aim is to exercise immigration control by granting or refusing extension of stay; investigating and prosecuting offenders under the Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115), Immigration Service Ordinance (Cap. 331), Registration of Persons Ordinance (Cap. 177), Marriage Ordinance (Cap. 181), Births and Deaths Registration Ordinance (Cap. 174), and certain provisions under the Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 200); removing or deporting illegal immigrants, overstayers and undesirable persons from Hong Kong; and implementing a unified screening mechanism (USM), based on the procedures under the statutory torture claim screening mechanism, to assess non-refoulement claims made on all applicable grounds and effect timely removal of those whose claim is rejected.

Brief Description

12 The Visa Control (Operations) Division, Enforcement Division, Counter-Terrorism Division and Removal Assessment and Litigation Division of the Department are responsible for post-entry immigration control. The work involves:

- processing and considering applications for extension of stay and change of status from visitors and temporary residents effectively and efficiently;
- taking enforcement actions against illegal immigrants and visitors engaged in unlawful employment after entry and/or overstaying, and related employers;
- maintaining vigilance in extension of stay and change of status applications from doubtful visitors so as to prevent them from prolonging their stay in Hong Kong for illicit purposes;
- arresting overstayers, illegal immigrants, illegal workers and other immigration offenders;
- investigating immigration offences and initiating prosecutions if there is sufficient evidence;
- taking enforcement actions against air passengers with forged travel documents, including those in transit, and their aiders and abettors;
- dealing with immigration offenders arrested by the Hong Kong Police Force and the Immigration Task Force;
- identifying trends in immigration offences and formulating counter measures;
- removing illegal immigrants, overstayers, immigration offenders and undesirable persons in a reasonable and cost-effective manner;
- issuing and executing removal orders against immigration offenders liable to removal and right of abode claimants not eligible for stay;
- seeking and executing deportation orders against criminals;
- conducting assessment on non-refoulement claims and dealing with related appeals/petitions and judicial reviews;
- processing petitions/appeals/judicial reviews arising from the removal or deportation of illegal immigrants, overstayers, immigration offenders and undesirable persons from Hong Kong;
- investigating and exposing the use or manufacture of forged travel documents by individuals or syndicates;
- exchanging intelligence and information with law enforcement counterparts of the Mainland and other places to prevent human smuggling by forged travel documents as well as seaborne means;
- taking proactive actions against the engagement of foreign domestic helpers in non-domestic and unapproved jobs;
- taking proactive actions against syndicates arranging the entry of underpaid foreign domestic helpers;
- facilitating early identification of potential victims of trafficking in persons and exploitation relating to foreign domestic helpers and conducting investigations on related immigration offences;

Head 70 — IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

- detaining immigration offenders under the Immigration Ordinance or Immigration Service Ordinance pending their removal or deportation from Hong Kong;
- managing the Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre; and
- formulating and reviewing departmental strategic plans, policies and standing procedures relating to counter-terrorism intelligence and liaison matters.

13 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Plan)
time required to process extension cases (upon receipt of all supporting documents)				
visitors within one working day (%)...	100	100	100	100
residents within two weeks (%)	100	99.8	99.7	99.0

Indicators

	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Estimate)
no. of applications			
extension of stay.....	537 068□	655 017□	655 000□
other endorsements	4 572	3 813	3 800
operations conducted by the Immigration Task Force (including investigation of forgery, illegal migration and counter-terrorism cases)	34 670	54 671	54 700
investigation/removal/deportation cases processed	34 228	33 104	33 515
offenders prosecuted	4 141	2 942	3 000
persons repatriated	3 615	3 222†	3 315
appeals/petitions received	1 106φ	2 201φ	2 560φ
deportation/removal orders issued	2 508	2 205	2 200
non-refoulement claim cases made	1 177§	2 482§	2 160^

□ Substantial increase in the number of applications due to COVID-19.

† Intermittent suspension of international flights under COVID-19 affected the number of persons repatriated in 2021.

φ Appeals/petitions lodged by non-refoulement claimants after the Department's rejection of their non-refoulement claims account for the majority of the total number of appeals/petitions received. By early 2019, the Department had largely completed assessment of the previously outstanding claims. In 2020, the total number of appeals/petitions received was affected by COVID-19 with throughput of claim assessment dropped considerably, mainly due to the limited provision of publicly-funded legal assistance (PFLA) under special work arrangements of the two PFLA agencies, and hence the consequential drop in new appeals/petitions received. Subsequently, with the increase in the new claims received from September 2020 to mid-2021, coupled with the increase in the PFLA quotas by phases starting from October 2020 which has expedited the clearing-up of backlog claims accumulated due to COVID-19, the number of appeals/petitions has accordingly increased in 2021 and the same trend is assumed for 2022.

§ Since March 2014, the Department has commenced operating USM to screen non-refoulement claims lodged on all applicable grounds. The figures for 2020 and 2021 include only claim cases made by new claimants who had not previously made a torture claim with the Department and/or sought asylum with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Hong Kong, but exclude cases made by previous torture claimants/asylum seekers (involving 46 claims in both 2020 and 2021 respectively) which the Department also has to determine under USM.

^ Taking into account the latest number of new claims received in the second half of 2021, the Department assumes the number of new claims received will slightly drop in 2022.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022–23

14 During 2022–23, the Department will continue to:

- process non-refoulement claims under USM expeditiously and deal with judicial reviews and appeals/petitions lodged by claimants;
- support the implementation of initiatives under the comprehensive review of the strategy of handling non-refoulement claims;
- step up enforcement actions to combat entry of illegal immigrants and abusers of USM;

Head 70 — IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

- review removal procedures to expedite the removal of rejected or withdrawn non-refoulement claimants;
- implement the Immigration (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 after its enactment on 1 August 2021 for enhancing the screening of claims and measures in respect of law enforcement, removal and detention of claimants; and
- step up enforcement actions against persons seeking entry into Hong Kong under the disguise of marriages with Hong Kong residents.

Programme (4): Personal Documentation

	2020–21 (Actual)	2021–22 (Original)	2021–22 (Revised)	2022–23 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	1,278.8	1,369.6	1,327.5 (–3.1%)	1,442.0 (+8.6%)
				(or +5.3% on 2021–22 Original)

Aim

15 The aims are to counteract illegal immigration and enhance the maintenance of law and order by providing all legal residents with a secure form of identity card and all consequential services related to identity cards; to register births, deaths and marriages and provide all consequential services related to such civil registration; to assess right of abode claims; and to facilitate international travel of Hong Kong residents by providing them with travel documents.

Brief Description

16 The Registration of Persons Division of the Department is responsible for the assessment of claims to right of abode, the issue of identity cards and the maintenance of identity card records. The Documents Division of the Department receives and processes applications for various types of travel documents. It is also responsible for registering all births, deaths and marriages and providing statistics for planning purposes. The work involves:

- providing identity cards and related services to legal residents;
- operating an accessible and convenient system for birth, death and marriage registration and providing related services;
- improving customer services to registrants for identity cards, births, deaths or marriages;
- monitoring and reviewing the operation of the Civil Celebrants of Marriages Scheme and its impact on marriage services;
- providing eligible Hong Kong residents with HKSAR passports or other travel documents;
- lobbying foreign countries to grant visa-free access to holders of HKSAR passport;
- enhancing the processing of applications for HKSAR electronic travel documents;
- assessing claims to right of abode and dealing with related matters;
- processing appeals and judicial reviews on identity card and HKSAR passport applications and related matters; and
- conducting the four-year territory-wide identity card replacement exercise.

17 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Plan)
delivery of services related to identity card on the day of applicants' attendance (%)	100	100	100	100
normal processing time per application/case				
identity card within seven working days (%)	100	100	100	100
certificate of registered particulars within 25 working days (%)	100	100	100	100
verification of eligibility for permanent identity card within six weeks (%)μ	100	100	100	100

Head 70 — IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

	Target	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Plan)
certified copy of birth/death/marriage certificate within seven working days (if search of records is not involved) (%)@	100	100	100	100
certified copy of birth/death certificate within ten working days (if search of records is involved) (%)@	100	N.A.	100	100
certified copy of adoption certificate within nine working days (%)	100	100	100	100
HKSAR passport first application or replacement within five working days (%)	100	100	100	100
application from children under 11 not holding Hong Kong permanent identity cards within ten working days (%)	100	100	100	100
HKSAR document of identity within five working days (%)	100	100	100	100
HKSAR seaman's identity book on the day of application (%)μ	100	100	100	100
HKSAR re-entry permit on the day of application (%)μ	100	100	100	100
standard processing time at counter birth/death/adoption registration within 30 minutes (%)	100	99.7	99.6	100
marriage notice within 30 minutes (%)	100	99.6	99.6	100

μ The target is applied upon receipt of all necessary documents.

@ These targets replace the previous target “certified copy of birth/death/marriage certificate within seven working days” as from 2022. The key performance measure for certified copy of birth/death/marriage certificate is split into two items: (i) within seven working days (if search of record is not involved); and (ii) within ten working days (if search of records is involved) to indicate the difference in performance where search of records is involved. Extensive search of records is not required if copy of birth/death certificate can be produced upon application.

Indicators

	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Estimate)
identity cards and certificates of registered particulars issued	327 037	389 020	439 400
verification of eligibility of permanent identity card applications	69 496	66 350	69 100
identity cards issued under the territory-wide identity card replacement exercise	823 878 ^δ	1 763 887	2 339 400
birth/adoption registrations ^δ	42 017	38 757	40 100
death registrations ^δ	50 653	51 536	52 900
marriage registrations			
processing of notice of intended marriage	30 507	29 541	42 200
marriage solemnisation (by Civil Celebrants of Marriages)	14 562	13 203	19 900
marriage solemnisation (other than by Civil Celebrants of Marriages)	13 599	13 566	19 500
birth/adoption certificates issued ^ψ	85 559	71 382	67 400
death certificates issued ^ψ	66 522	76 039	75 600
marriage certificates issued ^ψ	25 170	26 856	25 600
appointment of Civil Celebrants	96	79	120

Head 70 — IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Estimate)
no. of applications			
HKSAR passport.....	250 896	312 536	450 000
HKSAR document of identity.....	16 192	25 223	25 700
HKSAR seaman's identity book.....	40	55	50
HKSAR re-entry permit.....	21 900	18 928	29 700

◇ Figures have been updated after the preparation of the 2021–2022 Estimates.

δ These indicators replace the previous indicator “birth/death/adoption registrations” as from 2022. Statistics of registration in respect of (i) birth/adoption; and (ii) death are split into individual items to better reflect the actual demand for the respective service.

Ψ These indicators replace the previous indicator “birth/death/marriage/adoption certificates issued” as from 2022. Statistics of issuance of certificate in respect of (i) birth/adoption; and (ii) death; and (iii) marriage are split into individual items to better reflect the actual demand for the respective service.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022–23

18 During 2022–23, the Department will continue to conduct the territory-wide identity card replacement exercise.

Programme (5): Nationality and Assistance to HKSAR Residents outside Hong Kong

	2020–21 (Actual)	2021–22 (Original)	2021–22 (Revised)	2022–23 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	33.5	32.6	32.5 (–0.3%)	34.5 (+6.2%)
				(or +5.8% on 2021–22 Original)

Aim

19 The Department is authorised by the Central People's Government to deal with Chinese nationality matters in respect of residents in HKSAR in accordance with the Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China and the “Explanations” adopted by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. The Department also accepts applications outside Hong Kong for declaration of change of nationality, naturalisation as a Chinese national, and renunciation and restoration of Chinese nationality through Chinese diplomatic and consular missions. It also provides assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress outside Hong Kong.

Brief Description

20 The work on nationality-related matters and assistance to Hong Kong residents outside Hong Kong involves:

- receiving and processing declarations of change of nationality;
- receiving and processing applications for naturalisation as a Chinese national and for renunciation and restoration of Chinese nationality;
- dealing with enquiries on Chinese nationality matters;
- providing prompt and practicable assistance to Hong Kong residents outside Hong Kong in distress, or those who have been imprisoned or detained, and their family members in Hong Kong;
- operating the 24-hour Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit hotline with 46 lines;
- providing the Registration of Outbound Travel Information service which enables Hong Kong residents to register their contact details and itinerary outside Hong Kong, as well as providing updates on Outbound Travel Alerts and related public information to assistance seekers; and
- providing support to the Security Bureau's implementation of the Outbound Travel Alert System.

21 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Plan)
normal processing time per application/case				
assistance to Hong Kong residents outside Hong Kong on day of request (%).....	100	100	100	100

Head 70 — IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

	Target	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Plan)
declaration of change of nationality in person on day of application (%)μ	100	100	100	100
application for naturalisation as a Chinese national within three months (%)μ	80.0	96.4	97.0	80.0
application for renunciation of Chinese nationality within two months (%)μ	80	100	100	80
application for restoration of Chinese nationality within three months (%)μ	80	100	100	80

μ The target is applied upon receipt of all necessary documents.

Indicators

	2020 (Actual)	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Estimate)
applications under the Chinese Nationality (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 540)			
declaration of change of nationality	209	332	280
application for naturalisation as a Chinese national	756	1 233	1 210
application for renunciation of Chinese nationality	299	426	310
application for restoration of Chinese nationality	4	11	6
requests for assistance by Hong Kong residents in distress outside Hong Kong and by their family members	18 511	2 647λ	2 910
telephone calls received and made via “1868” hotline	153 596	88 418λ	97 300

λ The figure of request for assistance cases received in 2020 hit a record high in the past decade, as a result of the surge of assistance sought by Hong Kong residents who were stranded outside Hong Kong due to COVID-19, particularly during early periods of international travel bans. The figure in 2021 significantly dropped alongside with the decrease of outbound travel by Hong Kong residents following travel restrictions worldwide.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022–23

22 During 2022–23, the Department will expand the Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit to step up its services and support for Hong Kong residents in distress outside Hong Kong.

Head 70 — IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2020–21 (Actual) (\$m)	2021–22 (Original) (\$m)	2021–22 (Revised) (\$m)	2022–23 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Pre-entry Control	383.7	408.3	393.0	416.9
(2) Control upon Entry	3,245.5	3,671.0	3,516.3	3,798.7
(3) Control after Entry	1,195.2	1,219.0	1,178.8	1,250.4
(4) Personal Documentation	1,278.8	1,369.6	1,327.5	1,442.0
(5) Nationality and Assistance to HKSAR Residents outside Hong Kong	33.5	32.6	32.5	34.5
	6,136.7	6,700.5	6,448.1 (–3.8%)	6,942.5 (+7.7%)
				(or +3.6% on 2021–22 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2022–23 is \$23.9 million (6.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to the increased provision for full-year impact to personal emoluments and personnel related expenses arising from the Grade Structure Review for the Disciplined Services Grades which has taken effect from 1 September 2021 and filling of vacancies for meeting operational needs.

Programme (2)

Provision for 2022–23 is \$282.4 million (8.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to the increased provision for full-year impact to personal emoluments and personnel related expenses arising from the Grade Structure Review for the Disciplined Services Grades which has taken effect from 1 September 2021, filling of vacancies and the net increase of 13 posts for meeting operational needs.

Programme (3)

Provision for 2022–23 is \$71.6 million (6.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to the increased provision for full-year impact to personal emoluments and personnel related expenses arising from the Grade Structure Review for the Disciplined Services Grades which has taken effect from 1 September 2021, filling of vacancies and the net increase of three posts for meeting operational needs.

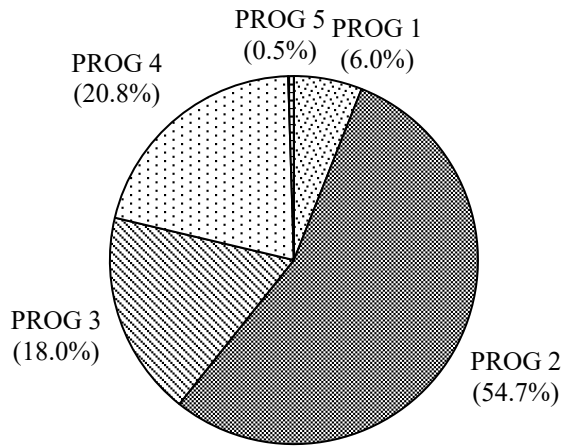
Programme (4)

Provision for 2022–23 is \$114.5 million (8.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to the increased provision for full-year impact to personal emoluments and personnel related expenses arising from the Grade Structure Review for the Disciplined Services Grades which has taken effect from 1 September 2021 and filling of vacancies, partly offset by the net decrease of 264 posts.

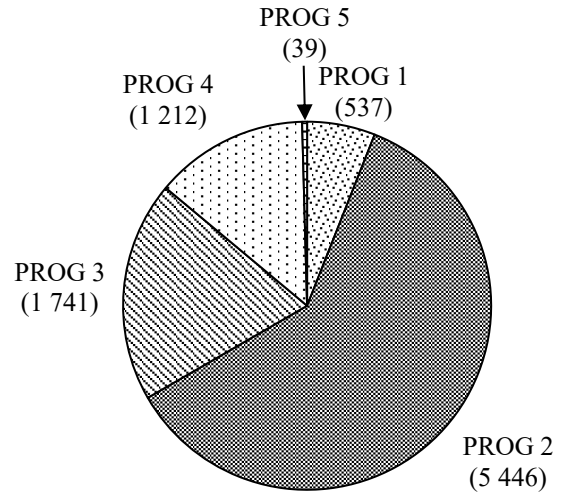
Programme (5)

Provision for 2022–23 is \$2.0 million (6.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to the increased provision for full-year impact to personal emoluments and personnel related expenses arising from the Grade Structure Review for the Disciplined Services Grades which has taken effect from 1 September 2021 and increased operating expenses.

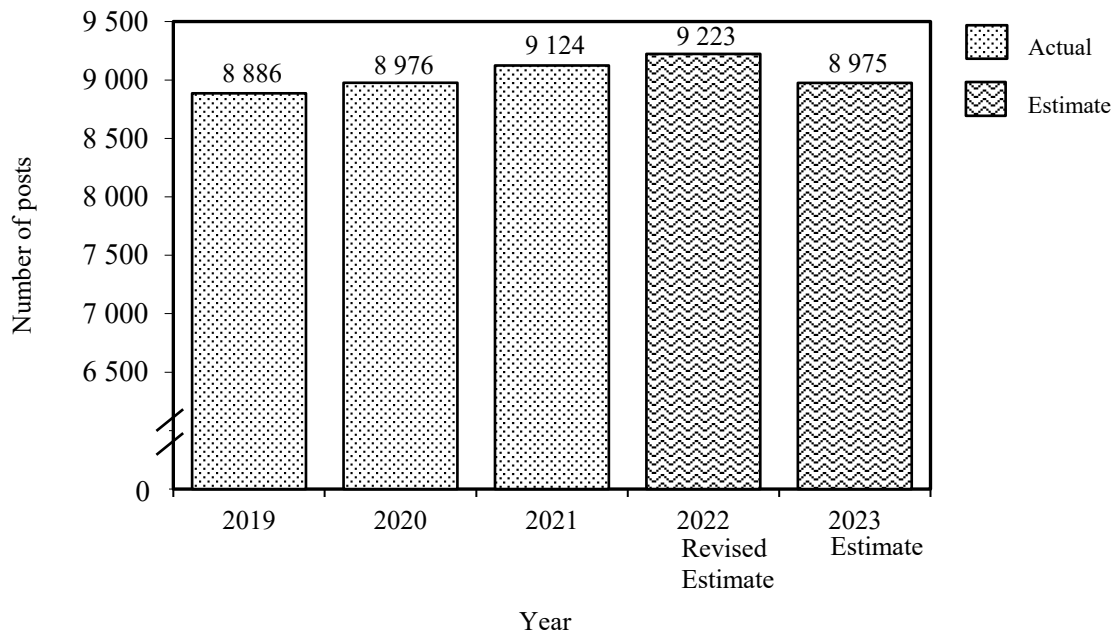
*Allocation of provision
to programmes
(2022-23)*



*Staff by programme
(as at 31 March 2023)*



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



Head 70 — IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

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	6,101,864	6,657,959	6,408,320	6,902,534
202	Repatriation expenses	5,416	7,263	4,558	7,328
	Total, Recurrent	6,107,280	6,665,222	6,412,878	6,909,862
	Total, Operating Account	6,107,280	6,665,222	6,412,878	6,909,862
Capital Account					
	Plant, Equipment and Works				
603	Plant, vehicles and equipment	1,954	9,484	9,388	4,993
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)	27,423	25,841	25,841	27,674
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works	29,377	35,325	35,229	32,667
	Total, Capital Account	29,377	35,325	35,229	32,667
	Total Expenditure	6,136,657	6,700,547	6,448,107	6,942,529

Head 70 — IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2022–23 for the salaries and expenses of the Immigration Department is \$6,942,529,000. This represents an increase of \$494,422,000 over the revised estimate for 2021–22 and \$805,872,000 over the actual expenditure in 2020–21.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$6,902,534,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Immigration Department.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2022 will be 9 223 posts including one supernumerary post. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of 248 posts 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 \$4,818,657,000.

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	4,214,196	4,597,146	4,288,219	4,669,369
- Allowances	109,622	120,057	108,412	111,308
- Job-related allowances.....	13,004	5,197	13,961	22,747
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	31,578	19,969	19,425	12,782
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	379,233	481,976	468,848	531,756
Departmental Expenses				
- Information and communications technology rentals and maintenance	236,555	269,759	329,467	258,739
- Specialist supplies and equipment.....	173,524	117,798	194,993	93,409
- General departmental expenses	943,722	1,045,606	984,567	1,201,971
Other Charges				
- Land usage cost	1	1	1	1
- Grant to the Immigration Service Welfare Fund.....	429	450	427	452
	6,101,864	6,657,959	6,408,320	6,902,534

5 Provision of \$7,328,000 under *Subhead 202 Repatriation expenses* is for the repatriation of illegal immigrants, immigration offenders and convicted criminals in accordance with the relevant immigration legislation. The increase of \$2,770,000 (60.8%) over the revised estimate for 2021–22 is mainly due to the increased repatriation expenses incurred in making removal arrangement for removees arising from COVID-19, the expected resumption of normal operation with the anticipated alleviation of COVID-19 and the anticipated increase in air ticket fees.

Head 70 — IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

Commitments

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2021	Revised estimated expenditure for 2021–22	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Capital Account</i>						
603		<i>Plant, vehicles and equipment</i>				
	801	Replacement of Immigration Launch No. 4	19,170	3,639	8,978	6,553
	802	Replacement of Immigration Launch No. 3	21,980	—	136	21,844
	803	Replacement of Immigration Launch No. 5	21,980	—	137	21,843
	804	Replacement of Immigration Launch No. 7	21,980	—	137	21,843
		Total	<u>85,110</u>	<u>3,639</u>	<u>9,388</u>	<u>72,083</u>