

## Head 139 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: FOOD AND HEALTH BUREAU (FOOD BRANCH)

**Controlling officer:** the Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) will account for expenditure under this Head.

**Estimate 2022–23** ..... **\$192.0m**

**Establishment ceiling 2022–23** (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 56 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2022 and as at 31 March 2023 ..... **\$40.5m**

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

### Controlling Officer's Report

#### Programmes

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Programme (1) Director of Bureau's Office</b>            | This programme contributes to Policy Area 27: Intra-Governmental Services (Secretary for Food and Health).           |
| <b>Programme (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety</b> | This programme contributes to Policy Area 2: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety (Secretary for Food and Health). |
| <b>Programme (3) Environmental Hygiene</b>                  | This programme contributes to Policy Area 32: Environmental Hygiene (Secretary for Food and Health).                 |

#### Detail

##### Programme (1): Director of Bureau's Office

|                           | 2020–21<br>(Actual) | 2021–22<br>(Original) | 2021–22<br>(Revised) | 2022–23<br>(Estimate)             |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Financial provision (\$m) | 14.8                | 15.3                  | 14.5<br>(–5.2%)      | 14.9<br>(+2.8%)                   |
|                           |                     |                       |                      | (or –2.6% on<br>2021–22 Original) |

#### Aim

- 2 The aim is to ensure the smooth operation of the Office of the Secretary for Food and Health.

#### Brief Description

3 The Office of the Secretary for Food and Health is responsible for providing support to the Secretary for Food and Health in undertaking political work. This includes the support provided by the Under Secretary and the Political Assistant. The Office is also responsible for providing administrative support to the Secretary for Food and Health in carrying out her duties. The work includes the planning, co-ordination and implementation of all arrangements for the Secretary's public, media and community functions.

##### Programme (2): Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

|                           | 2020–21<br>(Actual) | 2021–22<br>(Original) | 2021–22<br>(Revised) | 2022–23<br>(Estimate)             |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Financial provision (\$m) | 60.8                | 101.4                 | 105.8<br>(+4.3%)     | 97.1<br>(–8.2%)                   |
|                           |                     |                       |                      | (or –4.2% on<br>2021–22 Original) |

#### Aim

4 The aim is to formulate and oversee implementation of policies to ensure that food available for human consumption is safe, respond to food incidents effectively, prevent the introduction and spread of zoonotic diseases and diseases in animals and plants, facilitate the sustainable development of the agricultural and fisheries industries, and oversee efficient operation of government wholesale marketing facilities for fresh food produce.

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### *Brief Description*

5 The Branch's main responsibility under this programme is to formulate and co-ordinate policies and programmes relating to the above activities. It made good progress in achieving the targets set for 2021.

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022–23*

6 During 2022–23, the Branch will:

- prepare an amendment bill to amend the existing legislation related to animal welfare, including introducing a positive duty of care on persons responsible for animals and enhancing enforcement powers to prevent and protect animals from suffering;
- implement the New Agriculture Policy to proactively support the modernisation and sustainable development of local agriculture, including monitoring the phased completion of the works project of Agricultural Park Phase 1 and its operation, and the consultancy study on Agricultural Priority Areas;
- monitor the progress of various measures introduced to sustain and upgrade the development of local fisheries, such as issuance of new marine fish culture licences, conducting of environmental impact assessment for designating new fish culture zones, and provision of support for Hong Kong fishermen to develop deep sea mariculture in Hong Kong and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area;
- monitor the implementation of a pilot scheme under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund and Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund, with a view to making good use of the funds to promote modernisation, enhance competitiveness of the industry and facilitate the transfer of knowledge;
- continue to implement a strategic plan for reducing the levels of salt and sugar in food to promote healthy eating;
- review the existing regulatory arrangement on composition, and nutrition and health claims for formula products for infants and young children;
- continue to review and update local food safety standards, guidelines and regulatory arrangements, including legislation relating to veterinary drug residues in food; and
- continue to work on the proposal for reprovisioning and expanding the Food Safety Laboratory of the Government Laboratory to enhance its testing capability and operational efficiency.

### **Programme (3): Environmental Hygiene**

|                           | 2020–21<br>(Actual) | 2021–22<br>(Original) | 2021–22<br>(Revised) | 2022–23<br>(Estimate)             |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Financial provision (\$m) | 94.6                | 83.9                  | 80.3<br>(–4.3%)      | 80.0<br>(–0.4%)                   |
|                           |                     |                       |                      | (or –4.6% on<br>2021–22 Original) |

### *Aim*

7 The aim is to provide quality environmental hygiene services in the territory, strengthen the management of public markets, minimise the risks and threats caused to public health by pest and other nuisances, increase the supply of public columbarium and crematorium facilities, enhance the regulation of private columbaria, promote green burial, enhance the effectiveness of regulatory control over food premises, and promote public involvement in the upkeep of personal and environmental hygiene standards.

### *Brief Description*

8 The Branch's main responsibility under this programme is to formulate and co-ordinate policies and programmes relating to the above activities. It made good progress in achieving the targets set for 2021.

### *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022–23*

9 During 2022–23, the Branch will:

- oversee the development of new public markets at selected locations and the implementation of the Market Modernisation Programme to improve facilities of existing public markets;
- continue to implement measures to increase the supply of public columbarium and crematorium facilities and to promote the scattering of cremated human ashes at sea or in Gardens of Remembrance;
- oversee the implementation of the regulatory regime for private columbaria in accordance with the Private Columbaria Ordinance (Cap. 630);

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- promote collaboration in mosquito and rodent control; and
- oversee the refurbishment programme of public toilets.

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### ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

|   | 2020–21<br>(Actual)<br>(\$m) | 2021–22<br>(Original)<br>(\$m) | 2021–22<br>(Revised)<br>(\$m) | 2022–23<br>(Estimate)<br>(\$m)    |
|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Programme</b>                                    |                              |                                |                               |                                   |
| (1) Director of Bureau's Office .....               | 14.8                         | 15.3                           | 14.5                          | 14.9                              |
| (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food<br>Safety ..... | 60.8                         | 101.4                          | 105.8                         | 97.1                              |
| (3) Environmental Hygiene .....                     | 94.6                         | 83.9                           | 80.3                          | 80.0                              |
|   | 170.2                        | 200.6                          | 200.6<br>(—)                  | 192.0<br>(–4.3%)                  |
|   |                              |                                |                               | (or –4.3% on<br>2021–22 Original) |

### Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

#### Programme (1)

Provision for 2022–23 is \$0.4 million (2.8%) higher than the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to the increased provision for salary expenses.

#### Programme (2)

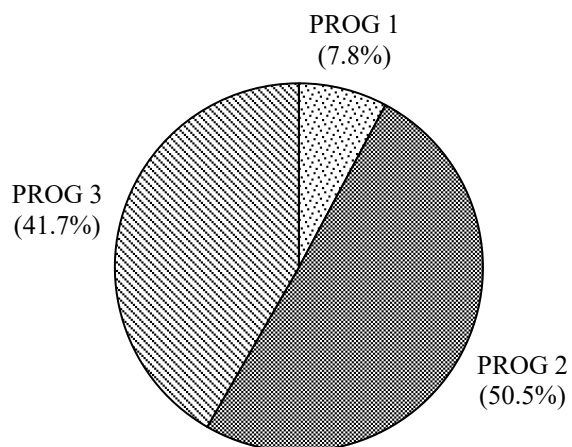
Provision for 2022–23 is \$8.7 million (8.2%) lower than the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to the reduced provision for operating expenses.

#### Programme (3)

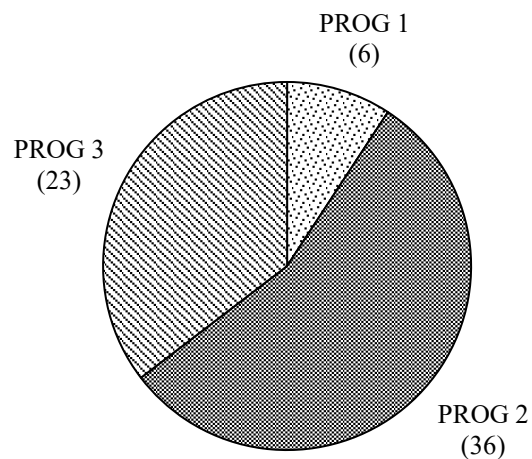
Provision for 2022–23 is \$0.3 million (0.4%) lower than the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to the reduced provision for personal emoluments, partly offset by the increased provision for operating expenses.

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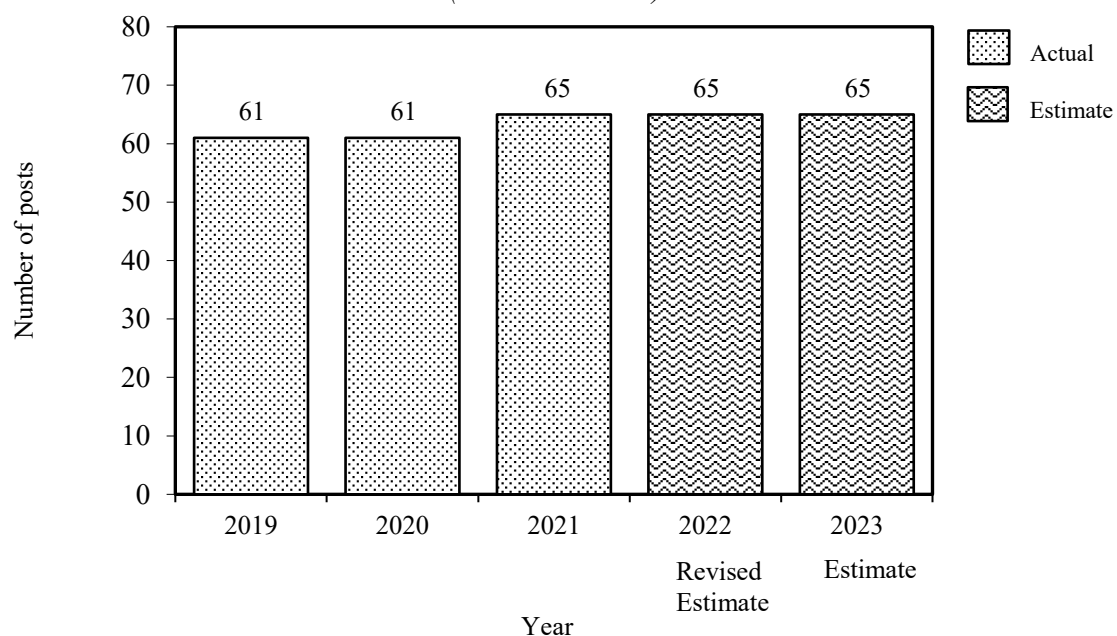
*Allocation of provision  
to programmes  
(2022-23)*



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



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



## Head 139 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: FOOD AND HEALTH BUREAU (FOOD BRANCH)

| Sub-head<br>(Code)             | Actual<br>expenditure<br>2020–21 | Approved<br>estimate<br>2021–22 | Revised<br>estimate<br>2021–22 | Estimate<br>2022–23 |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
|                                | \$'000                           | \$'000                          | \$'000                         | \$'000              |
| <b>Operating Account</b>       |                                  |                                 |                                |                     |
| Recurrent                      |                                  |                                 |                                |                     |
| 000 Operational expenses ..... | 170,218                          | 200,624                         | 200,624                        | 191,962             |
| Total, Recurrent .....         | 170,218                          | 200,624                         | 200,624                        | 191,962             |
| Total, Operating Account ..... | 170,218                          | 200,624                         | 200,624                        | 191,962             |
| <hr/>                          |                                  |                                 |                                |                     |
| Total Expenditure .....        | 170,218                          | 200,624                         | 200,624                        | 191,962             |
|                                | <u>170,218</u>                   | <u>200,624</u>                  | <u>200,624</u>                 | <u>191,962</u>      |

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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 Food Branch is \$191,962,000. This represents a decrease of \$8,662,000 against the revised estimate for 2021–22 and an increase of \$21,744,000 over the actual expenditure in 2020–21.

#### *Operating Account*

#### Recurrent

2 Provision of \$191,962,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Food Branch.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2022 will be 65 posts including one supernumerary post. 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 \$40,472,000.

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

|  | 2020–21<br>(Actual)<br>(\$'000) | 2021–22<br>(Original)<br>(\$'000) | 2021–22<br>(Revised)<br>(\$'000) | 2022–23<br>(Estimate)<br>(\$'000) |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Personal Emoluments                                  |                                 |                                   |                                  |                                   |
| - Salaries .....                                     | 58,869                          | 62,600                            | 64,497                           | 65,463                            |
| - Allowances .....                                   | 3,081                           | 3,663                             | 3,172                            | 3,422                             |
| - Job-related allowances.....                        | 1                               | 2                                 | 4                                | 2                                 |
| Personnel Related Expenses                           |                                 |                                   |                                  |                                   |
| - Mandatory Provident Fund<br>contribution .....     | 147                             | 95                                | 156                              | 132                               |
| - Civil Service Provident Fund<br>contribution ..... | 3,241                           | 4,788                             | 4,434                            | 5,494                             |
| Departmental Expenses                                |                                 |                                   |                                  |                                   |
| - General departmental expenses .....                | 104,879                         | 129,476                           | 128,361                          | 117,449                           |
|  | 170,218                         | 200,624                           | 200,624                          | 191,962                           |