

Head 151 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: SECURITY BUREAU

Controlling officer: the Permanent Secretary for Security will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2022–23 **\$1,152.9m**

Establishment ceiling 2022–23 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 231 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2022 reducing by one post to 230 posts as at 31 March 2023 **\$144.7m**

In addition, there will be an estimated 16 directorate posts as at 31 March 2022 reducing by one post to 15 posts as at 31 March 2023.

Commitment balance..... **\$4,080.0m**

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

Programme (1) Director of Bureau's Office This programme contributes to Policy Area 27: Intra-Governmental Services (Secretary for Security).

Programme (2) Internal Security This programme contributes to Policy Area 9: Internal Security (Secretary for Security).

Programme (3) Immigration Control This programme contributes to Policy Area 10: Immigration Control (Secretary for Security).

Detail

Programme (1): Director of Bureau's Office

	2020–21 (Actual)	2021–22 (Original)	2021–22 (Revised)	2022–23 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	16.1	16.6	16.2 (–2.4%)	16.6 (+2.5%)
				(or same as 2021–22 Original)

Aim

- 2 The aim is to ensure the smooth operation of the Office of the Secretary for Security.

Brief Description

3 The Office of the Secretary for Security is responsible for providing support to the Secretary for Security 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 Security in carrying out his duties. The work includes the planning, co-ordination and implementation of all arrangements for the Secretary's public, media and community functions.

Programme (2): Internal Security

	2020–21 (Actual)	2021–22 (Original)	2021–22 (Revised)	2022–23 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	565.1	837.0	762.1 (–8.9%)	798.5 (+4.8%)
				(or –4.6% on 2021–22 Original)

Aim

- 4 The aim is to maintain law and order and to protect life and property.

Brief Description

5 The Bureau's main responsibilities under this programme are to:

- formulate policies and programmes on law and order and public safety;
- formulate and implement government security policies; and
- formulate policies and programmes against drug trafficking and drug abuse in the community.

6 The Bureau's targets are to:

- prevent and fight crime;
- improve correctional services and rehabilitate offenders;
- safeguard life and property;
- minimise suffering during emergencies and natural disasters; and
- combat drug trafficking and drug abuse, and rehabilitate drug abusers.

7 The effectiveness of the work of the Bureau is mainly reflected by the performance of the departments responsible for internal security in achieving the objectives of this programme. During 2021–22, the Bureau:

- continued to oversee the maintenance of law and order and public safety in Hong Kong;
- introduced specific offences against voyeurism, unlawful recording or observation of intimate parts, publication of images originating from these two offences, as well as publication or threatened publication of intimate images without consent under the Crimes (Amendment) Ordinance 2021;
- updated the regulatory system of dangerous goods with a view to aligning it with the international standards through making legislative amendments to the Dangerous Goods Ordinance (Cap. 295) and its subsidiary legislation by phases;
- enacted the Fire Service (Installations and Equipment) (Amendment) Regulation 2021 to promote the voluntary use of stand-alone battery-operated fire detectors in buildings and premises;
- signed an agreement on transfer of sentenced persons with the Government of the Russian Federation;
- continued to enhance the effectiveness of the Government's emergency response measures through enhancement of the Emergency Monitoring and Support Centre, inter-departmental exercises and drills, regular review and updating of various contingency plans and provision of training to frontline departments; and
- continued to oversee and co-ordinate anti-drug efforts along the multi-pronged strategy of preventive education and publicity, treatment and rehabilitation, legislation and enforcement, external co-operation and research.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022–23

8 During 2022–23, the Bureau will:

- continue to oversee counter-terrorism policy and the operation of the Inter-departmental Counter-terrorism Unit;
- undertake preparatory work for the amendment of sexual offences provisions with reference to the review on sexual offences conducted by the Law Reform Commission;
- undertake preparatory work for enhancing the cybersecurity of critical information infrastructure;
- continue to improve ageing correctional facilities;
- continue to implement the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme;
- consult the public on legislative amendments to the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572) to empower the Fire Services Department and the Buildings Department to carry out fire safety improvement works for owners of old composite and domestic buildings who have failed to comply with the relevant requirements, and to recover related fees from them afterwards;
- continue to put into effect relevant recommendations on anti-money laundering of the Financial Action Task Force with respect to certain designated non-financial businesses and professionals; and
- continue to sustain the anti-drug momentum and further enhance efforts along the multi-pronged strategy in collaboration with relevant bureaux/departments and community stakeholders, including following up on various recommendations made by the Action Committee Against Narcotics.

Programme (3): Immigration Control

	2020–21 (Actual)	2021–22 (Original)	2021–22 (Revised)	2022–23 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	346.2	359.8	224.5 (–37.6%)	337.8 (+50.5%)
				(or –6.1% on 2021–22 Original)

Aim

9 The aim is to ensure that adequate immigration controls are in place while maintaining efficient and quality services to the public.

Brief Description

10 The Bureau's main responsibilities under this programme are to:

- formulate policies and programmes on immigration control, nationality or residency matters and personal documentation; and
- deal with appeals against the Director of Immigration's decisions.

11 The Bureau's target is to combat illegal immigration while making it as easy as possible for Hong Kong residents and bona fide visitors to move in and out of the territory.

12 The effectiveness of the work of the Bureau is mainly reflected by the performance of the Immigration Department, in collaboration with other relevant departments, in putting in place effective yet facilitating immigration control. During 2021–22, the Bureau:

- continued to oversee the operation of a unified screening mechanism (USM) to assess non-refoulement claims on all applicable grounds, and implementation of various initiatives under the comprehensive review of the strategy of handling non-refoulement claims;
- continued to oversee the operation of the Pilot Scheme for Provision of Publicly-funded Legal Assistance for Non-refoulement Claimants (Pilot Scheme) and completed the review on the scheme;
- followed through the enactment and commencement of the Immigration (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 to improve the screening and appeal procedures, prevent delaying tactics of claimants, and step up the interception at source, enforcement, removal and detention;
- continued to exchange views with the Central People's Government on the operation of the One-way Permit and Two-way Permit Schemes;
- oversaw the effective operation of the Outbound Travel Alert System and the Registration of Outbound Travel Information Service;
- oversaw the provision of practicable assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress outside Hong Kong;
- oversaw the Immigration Department's implementation of various enhancement measures to attract outside talent, professionals and entrepreneurs to come to Hong Kong;
- oversaw the phased enhancement to visa application procedures, including the introduction of electronic visa; and
- continued to oversee the implementation of the territory-wide identity card replacement exercise.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022–23

13 During 2022–23, the Bureau will:

- continue to oversee the operation of the USM and implementation of measures relating to the handling of non-refoulement claims and claimants;
- formulate the long-term way forward on the provision to publicly-funded legal assistance to non-refoulement claimants taking into account the outcome of the review on the Pilot Scheme;
- prepare the subsidiary legislation for implementation of the Advance Passenger Information System and oversee the system development by the Immigration Department;
- oversee the extension of operating hours for passenger clearance of the Shenzhen Bay Port to 24 hours;
- oversee 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;

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- continue to exchange views with the Central People's Government on the operation of the One-way Permit and Two-way Permit Schemes;
- continue to oversee the effective operation of the Outbound Travel Alert System and the Registration of Outbound Travel Information Service;
- continue to oversee the provision of practicable assistance to Hong Kong residents in distress outside Hong Kong;
- continue to oversee the Immigration Department's implementation of various admission schemes for talent, professionals and entrepreneurs from outside Hong Kong;
- continue to oversee the phased enhancement to visa application procedures, including the introduction of electronic visa; and
- continue to oversee the implementation of the territory-wide identity card replacement exercise.

ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

	2020–21 (Actual) (\$m)	2021–22 (Original) (\$m)	2021–22 (Revised) (\$m)	2022–23 (Estimate) (\$m)
Programme				
(1) Director of Bureau's Office	16.1	16.6	16.2	16.6
(2) Internal Security	565.1	837.0	762.1	798.5
(3) Immigration Control	346.2	359.8	224.5	337.8
	<hr/> 927.4	<hr/> 1,213.4	<hr/> 1,002.8 (–17.4%)	<hr/> 1,152.9 (+15.0%)
				(or –5.0% on 2021–22 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2022–23 is \$0.4 million (2.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to increased provision for operating expenses for administrative support.

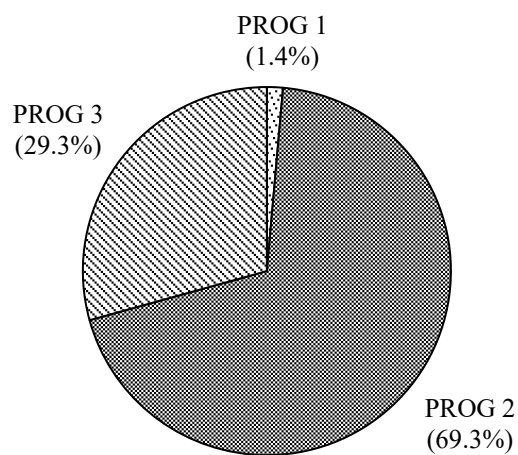
Programme (2)

Provision for 2022–23 is \$36.4 million (4.8%) higher than the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to increased provision for salary increment, other operating expenses and a net increase of one post.

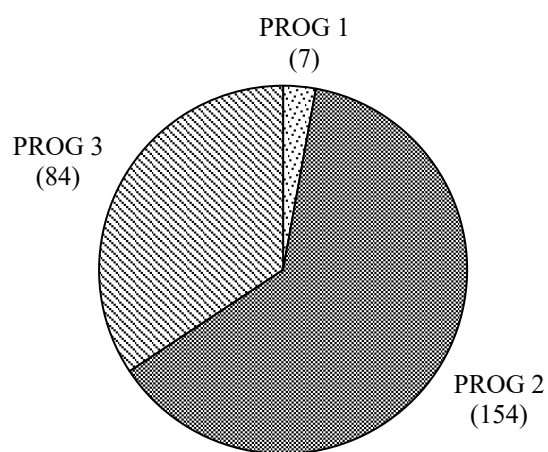
Programme (3)

Provision for 2022–23 is \$113.3 million (50.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to the increased provision arising from the anticipated increase in the number of non-refoulement claims in 2022–23, including expenses for legal assistance to non-refoulement claimants, honoraria for members of committees and other operating expenses, partly offset by a net decrease of three posts.

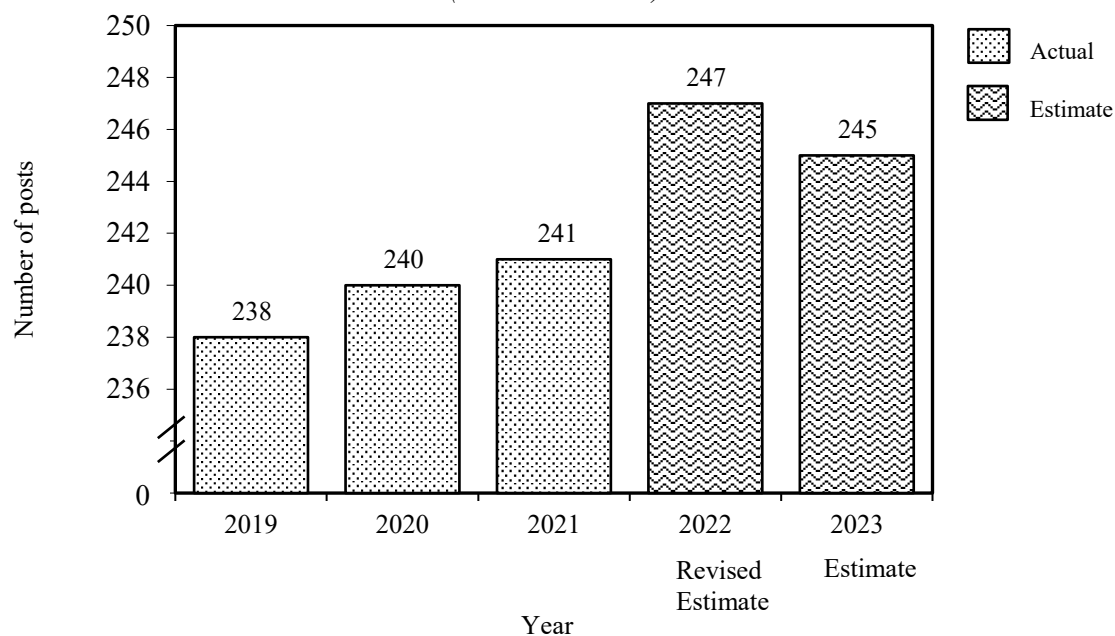
*Allocation of provision
to programmes
(2022-23)*



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



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



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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	467,370	647,990	437,879	602,001
	Total, Recurrent.....	467,370	647,990	437,879	602,001
	Non-Recurrent				
700	General non-recurrent	460,000	560,000	560,000	550,000
	Total, Non-Recurrent.....	460,000	560,000	560,000	550,000
	Total, Operating Account	927,370	1,207,990	997,879	1,152,001
Capital Account					
	Plant, Equipment and Works				
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	—	5,380	4,900	880
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	—	5,380	4,900	880
	Total, Capital Account.....	—	5,380	4,900	880
	Total Expenditure	927,370	1,213,370	1,002,779	1,152,881

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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 Security Bureau is \$1,152,881,000. This represents an increase of \$150,102,000 over the revised estimate for 2021–22 and \$225,511,000 over the actual expenditure in 2020–21.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$602,001,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Security Bureau. The increase of \$164,122,000 (37.5%) over the revised estimate for 2021–22 is mainly due to the increased provision for honoraria for members of committees, general departmental expenses and the legal assistance to non-refoulement claimants.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2022 will be 247 posts including one supernumerary post. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of two 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 \$144,712,000.

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	176,029	197,232	178,000	191,380
- Allowances	6,387	5,017	4,956	5,017
- Job-related allowances.....	12	22	8	22
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	532	380	468	309
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	12,141	13,452	13,454	14,398
Departmental Expenses				
- Honoraria for members of committees.....	61,937	110,618	46,000	80,619
- General departmental expenses	136,349	217,331	121,948	196,526
Other Charges				
- World Customs Organization	229	243	228	240
- United Nations International Drug Control Programme and World Health Organization	217	217	217	217
- Action Committee Against Narcotics.....	4,592	4,600	4,600	4,600
Subventions				
- Legal assistance scheme for non- refoulement claimants by the Duty Lawyer Service.....	68,945	98,878	68,000	108,673
	467,370	647,990	437,879	602,001

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

5 Provision of \$880,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents a decrease of \$4,020,000 (82.0%) against the revised estimate for 2021–22. This is mainly due to the decreased cash flow requirement for acquisition of plant and equipment.

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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>Operating Account</i>						
700		<i>General non-recurrent</i>				
	801	Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme	5,500,000	860,000	560,000	4,080,000
		Total	5,500,000	860,000	560,000	4,080,000