

Head 23 — AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE

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

Estimate 2023–24 **\$108.3m**

Establishment ceiling 2023–24 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 98 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2023 and as at 31 March 2024 **\$38.3m**

In addition, there will be an estimated one directorate post as at 31 March 2023 and as at 31 March 2024.

Controlling Officer's Report

Programme

Auxiliary Medical Service

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

Detail

	2021–22 (Actual)	2022–23 (Original)	2022–23 (Revised)	2023–24 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	105.5	108.1	104.5 (–3.3%)	108.3 (+3.6%)
				(or +0.2% on 2022–23 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 2022–23, 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:

- delivering a large variety of services to combat the COVID-19 pandemic such as conveyance of confirmed cases and close contacts, medical service at quarantine centres and community isolation facilities, evacuation of institutes, enforcement of the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 599), etc.;
- providing non-emergency ambulance transfer service to clients referred by Department of Health clinics, Hospital Authority clinics, Social Welfare Department institutions and private hospitals;
- providing first aid bicycle services on cycling tracks in the New Territories, including the newly opened Tseung Kwan O Cross Bay Link;
- manning methadone clinics for Department of Health, and providing clinical service to this category of patients;
- manning of first aid posts at public functions and country parks;
- reinforcing life-guard services of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department;
- providing certificate courses on paramedic training and short courses on first aid for civil servants;
- training for the AMS volunteers in connection with various contingency plans related to internal security; and
- through the Cadet Corps which has 1 895 cadets as at 31 December 2022, providing health-care focused whole-person development training for the youth aged between 12 and 17 by the “Health Awareness and Promotion Programme for Youth” (HAPPY). The programme aims at equipping 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	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Plan)
general regular training	240 000	110 528 λ	98 715 λ	240 000 λ
recruit training.....	28 000	9 874 λ	15 657 λ	28 000 λ
centralised training.....	50 000	47 805	54 612	50 000
civil service training.....	152 000	147 592	112 504 λ	152 000 λ
supplementary services	243 000	562 566 Ψ	567 602 Ψ	243 000
non-emergency ambulance transfer service.....	54 000	53 695	50 484	54 000
cadet induction training.....	23 000	16 384 λ	5 984 λ	23 000 λ
cadet general regular training.....	130 000	145 773	88 928 λ	130 000 λ
cadet centralised training.....	55 000	31 680 λ	33 246 λ	55 000 λ
cadet exercise and visit.....	55 000	30 159 λ	32 536 λ	55 000 λ

Indicators

	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Estimate)
emergency services			
no. of man-hours for emergency duties (serious traffic accidents, disastrous fires, typhoons, rainstorms and major epidemics)	5 713	6 843 Ω	4 500
no. of occasions of call-outs/operations in emergency duties.....	38	577 \diamond	30
members attending regular training	3 716 λ	2 022 λ	4 450 λ
new members recruited	171 λ	161 λ	420 λ
new cadets recruited.....	512 λ	187 λ	700 λ
members attending centralised training	9 272	9 643	7 500
civil servants attending paramedic training			
first aid qualifying course	5 211 λ	4 053 λ	6 000 λ
other certificate/short courses	2 195	1 826	1 800
supplementary services			
response to ambulance calls.....	1 943	2 385 Ψ	1 100
coverage at public functions	1 114 λ	910 λ	2 400 λ
cases treated on country park duty.....	4 054	2 063 λ	3 600 λ
response to non-emergency ambulance transfer requests	9 944	13 031 Δ	12 000 $\#$

λ The figures in 2021 and 2022 were seriously affected by the COVID-19 pandemic as recruitment of both adult members and cadets, training, regular first aid duties and public functions were disrupted. The figures in 2023 are expected to increase in anticipation of the gradual resumption of recruitment, training and public functions.

Ψ The substantial increase was due to the heavy commitment in COVID-19-related operations and duties.

Ω The figure includes three typhoon manning operations conducted in 2022.

\diamond The figure includes emergency evacuation in COVID-19 operations in 2022.

Δ The increase was mainly due to the significant number of requests for escorting residents of residential care homes for the elderly/disabled, who were confirmed case of COVID-19 or identified as close contact, to and from community isolation facilities.

$\#$ The demand for non-emergency ambulance transfer is expected to decrease in 2023 having regard to relaxation of anti-epidemic measures and gradual resumption to normalcy.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023–24

6 During 2023–24 the Department will:

- enhance operation efficiency and prevention and control of disease;
- strengthen first aid bicycle services provided on cycling tracks;
- explore to widen the scope of ambulance conveyance service;
- continue to promote AMS and its recruitment of adult members to serve the community;
- continue to recruit cadet members and impart professional medical knowledge and skills relating to community and public health to the youth aged between 12 and 17, including ethnic minorities, through the programme “HAPPY”;

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- provide decontamination training to AMS members on proper response to nuclear emergencies; and
- provide national security education to AMS adult members and cadets.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

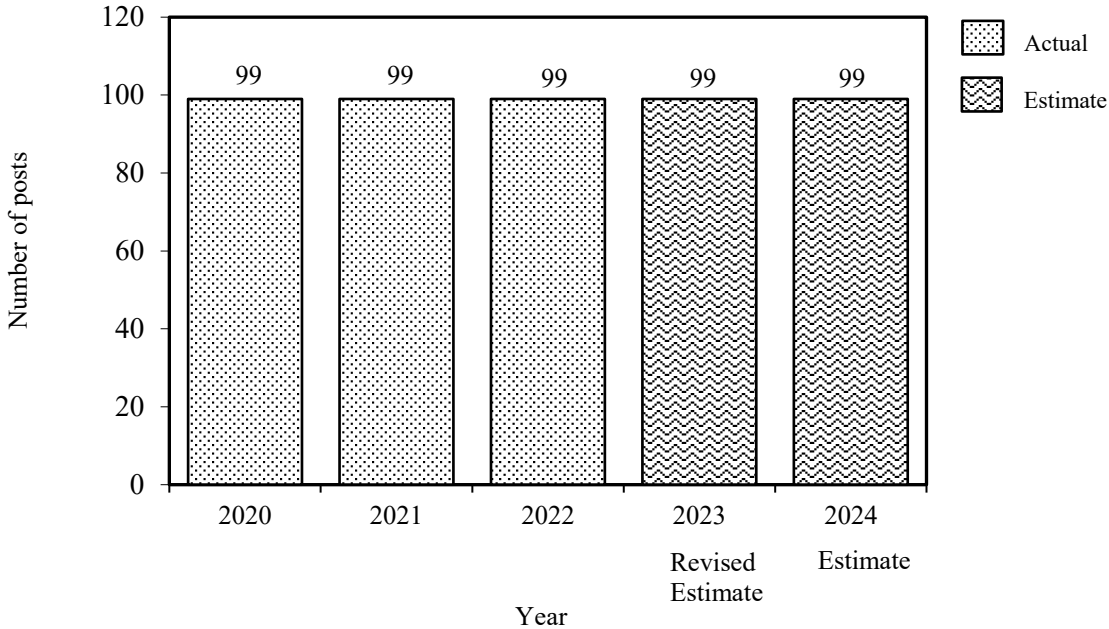
	2021–22 (Actual) (\$m)	2022–23 (Original) (\$m)	2022–23 (Revised) (\$m)	2023–24 (Estimate) (\$m)
Programme				
Auxiliary Medical Service	105.5	108.1	104.5 (–3.3%)	108.3 (+3.6%)
				(or +0.2% on 2022–23 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2023–24 is \$3.8 million (3.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2022–23. This is mainly due to increased requirement for pay and allowances for the auxiliary services and training expenses for the auxiliary services in 2023–24, partly offset by the decreased requirement for general departmental expenses.

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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2021-22	Approved estimate 2022-23	Revised estimate 2022-23	Estimate 2023-24	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	101,653	104,308	100,641	106,370
	Total, Recurrent.....	101,653	104,308	100,641	106,370
	Total, Operating Account	101,653	104,308	100,641	106,370
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Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	3,814	3,841	3,841	1,909
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	3,814	3,841	3,841	1,909
	Total, Capital Account.....	3,814	3,841	3,841	1,909
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	Total Expenditure	105,467	108,149	104,482	108,279
		<u>105,467</u>	<u>108,149</u>	<u>104,482</u>	<u>108,279</u>

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2023–24 for the salaries and expenses of the Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) is \$108,279,000. This represents an increase of \$3,797,000 over the revised estimate for 2022–23 and \$2,812,000 over the actual expenditure in 2021–22.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$106,370,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the AMS.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2023 will be 99 posts. No change in establishment is expected in 2023–24. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2023–24, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$38,328,000.

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

	2021–22 (Actual) (\$'000)	2022–23 (Original) (\$'000)	2022–23 (Revised) (\$'000)	2023–24 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	39,669	40,782	40,045	40,862
- Allowances	675	500	509	438
- Job-related allowances.....	96	70	97	81
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	134	149	142	148
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	2,993	3,776	3,547	4,385
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	25,214	17,213	21,188	20,100
Other Charges				
- Pay and allowances for the auxiliary services.....	32,080	40,096	34,291	39,056
- Training expenses for the auxiliary services.....	792	1,722	822	1,300
	101,653	104,308	100,641	106,370

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

5 Provision of \$1,909,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents a decrease of \$1,932,000 (50.3%) against the revised estimate for 2022–23. This is mainly due to the decreased cash flow requirement for acquisition and replacement of vehicle and equipment in 2023–24.