

## Head 46 — GENERAL EXPENSES OF THE CIVIL SERVICE

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**Controlling officer:** expenditure under this Head will be accounted for as follows:

Permanent Secretary for the Civil Service (Subheads 001, 010, 011, 023, 024, 025, 028, 037, 041 and 042)  
 Registrar of Companies (Subhead 006)  
 Chief Executive of Hong Kong Monetary Authority (Subhead 008)  
 Land Registrar (Subhead 009)  
 Director of Accounting Services (Subheads 013, 014, 020, 022, 032, 033, 038, 039 and 040)  
 Director-General of Communications (Subhead 081)  
 Postmaster General (Subhead 082)  
 Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (Subhead 083)  
 Director of Administration (Subhead 084)

**Estimate 2023–24** ..... **\$5,706.4m**

**Establishment ceiling for Subhead 001 in 2023–24** (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 359 non-directorate posts in the operational reserves as at 31 March 2023 and as at 31 March 2024..... **\$193.6m**

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### Controlling Officers' Report

**Programme**

**General Expenses of the Civil Service**

This programme contributes to Policy Area 26: Central Management of the Civil Service (Secretary for the Civil Service).

**Detail**

	2021–22 (Actual)	2022–23 (Original)	2022–23 (Revised)	<b>2023–24 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	4,288.5	5,251.6	4,914.2 (–6.4%)	<b>5,706.4</b> (+16.1%)
				(or +8.7% on 2022–23 Original)

**Aim**

- 2 The aim is to pay for expenditure on terms and conditions of service and other personnel related expenses.

**Brief Description**

3 The Secretary for the Civil Service is in charge of the central management of the civil service. The Permanent Secretary for the Civil Service and the Director of Accounting Services are responsible for overall resource control of the general expenses of the civil service. These expenses include:

- expenses for recruitment, civil service examinations and operational reserves posts;
- allowances under the Home Purchase, Home Financing, Private Tenancy Allowance, Accommodation Allowance, Rent Allowance and Non-accountable Cash Allowance Schemes including compassionate payment of the remaining entitlement of housing allowances of officers killed on duty to their dependent family members;
- passage expenses and personal allowances; and
- expenses relating to the relief and welfare of eligible officers and pensioners, and various awards and assistance to eligible officers.

- 4 Performance under this programme was generally maintained in 2022 as compared with 2021.

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5 The key performance indicators in respect of general expenses of the civil service are:

*Indicators*

	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Estimate)
candidates of common recruitment examinations and other examinations conducted by Civil Service Bureau .....	46 911	76 090#	<b>62 400</b>
recipients of long and meritorious service travel award@.....	2 704	1 950	<b>2 690</b>
housing benefits			
recipients of home purchase allowance .....	9 081	8 277	<b>7 840</b>
recipients of private tenancy allowance .....	184	145	<b>130</b>
recipients of home financing allowance.....	1 791	1 887	<b>2 070</b>
recipients of accommodation allowance .....	17	16	<b>15</b>
recipients of rent allowance .....	2	2	<b>2</b>
recipients of non-accountable cash allowance .....	10 374	11 937	<b>14 580</b>
recipients of leave passage allowance.....	1 220	1 619	<b>1 640</b>
students receiving school passage allowance.....	1 350	1 514	<b>1 690</b>
students receiving mainland and local education allowance....	10 491	9 397	<b>8 900</b>
students receiving overseas education allowance .....	967	1 089	<b>1 010</b>

# The increase was mainly due to the introduction of the Basic Law and National Security Law Test in 2022. Candidates who had obtained a pass result in the previous Basic Law Test are required to sit the Basic Law and National Security Law Test and obtain a pass result to be eligible for consideration for appointment to civil service posts.

@ This refers to the number of recipients beginning to incur expenditure in the calendar year with the awards granted.

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### ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

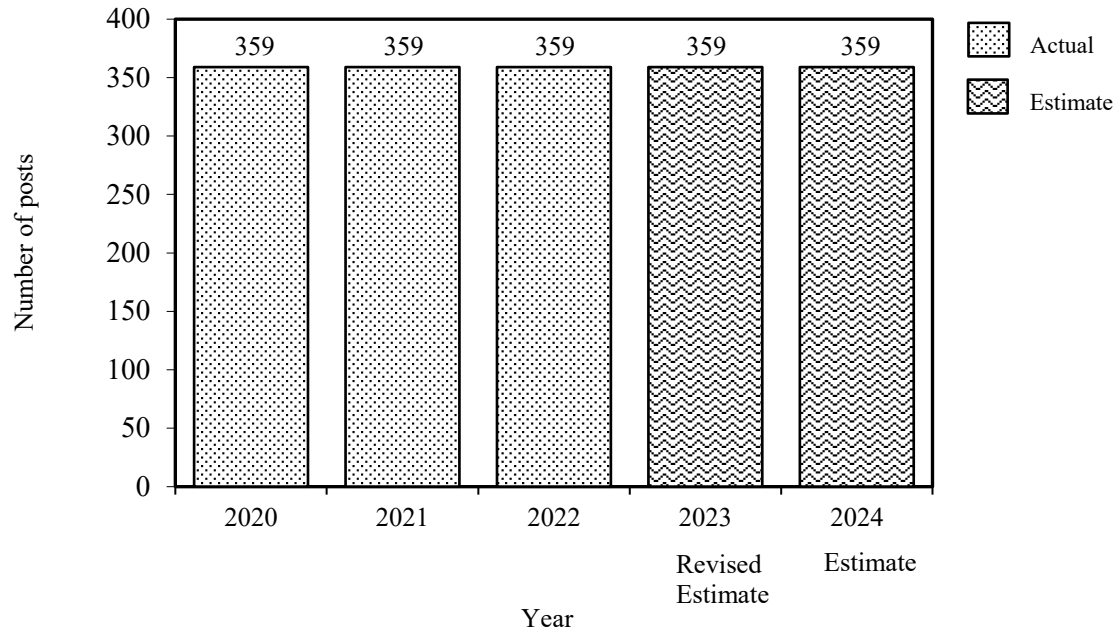
	2021–22 (Actual) (\$m)	2022–23 (Original) (\$m)	2022–23 (Revised) (\$m)	2023–24 (Estimate) (\$m)
<b>Programme</b>				
General Expenses of the Civil Service .....	4,288.5	5,251.6	4,914.2 (–6.4%)	<b>5,706.4</b> <b>(+16.1%)</b>
				<b>(or +8.7% on 2022–23 Original)</b>

#### Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2023–24 is \$792.2 million (16.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 2022–23. This is mainly due to the projected increase in the expenditure on housing allowances, passages and Long and Meritorious Service Travel Award Scheme.

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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	\$'000
<b>Operating Account</b>					
Recurrent					
Personal Emoluments					
001	Salaries.....	92,743	126,555	127,371	<b>129,372</b>
006	Recoverable salaries and allowances (Companies Registry Trading Fund)..... 241,000				
	<i>Deduct</i> reimbursements ..... <i>Cr. 241,000</i>	—	—	—	—
008	Recoverable salaries and allowances (Hong Kong Monetary Authority)..... 0				
	<i>Deduct</i> reimbursements ..... <i>Cr. 0</i>	—	—	—	—
009	Recoverable salaries and allowances (Land Registry Trading Fund)..... 257,448				
	<i>Deduct</i> reimbursements ..... <i>Cr. 257,448</i>	—	—	—	—
081	Recoverable salaries and allowances (Office of the Communications Authority Trading Fund)..... 262,865				
	<i>Deduct</i> reimbursements ..... <i>Cr. 262,865</i>	—	—	—	—
082	Recoverable salaries and allowances (Post Office Trading Fund)..... 1,780,000				
	<i>Deduct</i> reimbursements ..... <i>Cr. 1,780,000</i>	—	—	—	—
083	Recoverable salaries and allowances (Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund)..... 2,168,405				
	<i>Deduct</i> reimbursements ..... <i>Cr. 2,168,405</i>	—	—	—	—
084	Recoverable salaries and allowances (Legal Aid Services Council)..... 3,230				
	<i>Deduct</i> reimbursements ..... <i>Cr. 3,230</i>	—	—	—	—
	Total, Personal Emoluments.....	92,743	126,555	127,371	<b>129,372</b>
Personnel Related Expenses					
010	Recruiting expenses.....	877	940	1,029	<b>1,000</b>
011	Civil service examinations.....	14,171	15,892	15,892	<b>14,381</b>
013	Personal allowances.....	369,185	390,560	361,000	<b>352,910</b>
014	Home purchase allowance.....	608,043	626,000	577,000	<b>564,000</b>
020	Payments to estates of deceased officers.....	13,570	26,500	26,500	<b>26,500</b>
022	Passages.....	84,737	109,000	119,000	<b>165,000</b>
023	Quartermen.....	3,972	3,223	3,537	<b>3,333</b>
024	Staff relief and welfare.....	4,010	4,810	6,724	<b>6,059</b>
025	Long and Meritorious Service Travel Award Scheme.....	81,333	130,122	140,122	<b>190,664</b>
028	Legal assistance.....	678	1,500	2,500	<b>3,000</b>
032	Accommodation allowance.....	9,416	9,000	8,700	<b>8,000</b>
033	Home financing allowance.....	555,995	698,000	632,000	<b>693,000</b>
037	Pensioners' welfare fund.....	1,354	1,500	1,600	<b>1,600</b>
038	Private tenancy allowance.....	63,956	65,000	51,000	<b>46,000</b>
039	Rent allowance.....	516	800	500	<b>500</b>
040	Non-accountable cash allowance.....	2,377,991	3,030,000	2,829,000	<b>3,488,000</b>
041	Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	493	898	552	<b>808</b>

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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2021-22	Approved estimate 2022-23	Revised estimate 2022-23	<b>Estimate 2023-24</b>
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Operating Account—Cont'd.</b>				
Personnel Related Expenses—Cont'd.				
042 Civil Service Provident Fund contribution .....	5,446	11,277	10,127	<b>12,262</b>
Total, Personnel Related Expenses.....	4,195,743	5,125,022	4,786,783	<b>5,577,017</b>
Total, Recurrent.....	4,288,486	5,251,577	4,914,154	<b>5,706,389</b>
Total, Operating Account .....	4,288,486	5,251,577	4,914,154	<b>5,706,389</b>
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Total Expenditure .....	4,288,486	5,251,577	4,914,154	<b>5,706,389</b>
	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>

## Head 46 — GENERAL EXPENSES OF THE CIVIL SERVICE

### Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2023–24 for general expenses of the civil service, including the operational reserves and recurrent personnel related expenses, is \$5,706,389,000. This represents an increase of \$792,235,000 over the revised estimate for 2022–23 and \$1,417,903,000 over the actual expenditure in 2021–22.

#### *Operating Account*

##### Recurrent

##### Personal Emoluments

**2** Provision of \$129,372,000 for personal emoluments represents an increase of \$2,001,000 over the revised estimate for 2022–23.

**3** Provision under *Subhead 001* is for operational reserves, i.e. staff in the administrative, executive, secretarial and clerical grades who are required by departments to replace officers on leave or full-time training or for handover purposes and for staff required to undertake special and ad hoc projects.

**4** Gross provision of \$241 million under *Subhead 006* is for staff working in the Companies Registry. *Subhead 008* is for staff seconded to the Hong Kong Monetary Authority. No gross provision is required under this subhead in 2023–24 due to no secondment being scheduled. Gross provision of \$257,448,000 under *Subhead 009* is for staff working in the Land Registry. Gross provision of \$262,865,000 under *Subhead 081* is for staff working wholly on trading fund activities in the Office of the Communications Authority. Gross provision of \$1,780 million under *Subhead 082* is for staff working in the Hongkong Post. Gross provision of \$2,168,405,000 under *Subhead 083* is for staff working wholly on trading fund activities in the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department. Gross provision of \$3,230,000 under *Subhead 084* is for staff seconded to the Legal Aid Services Council.

**5** The establishment of the operational reserves will be 359 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2023 and remain the same as at 31 March 2024.

**6** Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer for *Subhead 001* 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 \$193,603,000.

**7** The establishment of staff for which the salaries and allowances are recoverable under *Subheads 006, 008, 009, 081, 082, 083 and 084* as at 31 March 2023 will be 10 490 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of eight posts in 2023–24.

**8** Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officers for *Subheads 006, 008, 009, 081, 082, 083 and 084* may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2023–24, the cost of which is reimbursed by the Companies Registry Trading Fund (for *Subhead 006*), the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (for *Subhead 008*), the Land Registry Trading Fund (for *Subhead 009*), the Office of the Communications Authority Trading Fund (for *Subhead 081*), the Post Office Trading Fund (for *Subhead 082*), the Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund (for *Subhead 083*) and the Legal Aid Services Council (for *Subhead 084*). Before exercising his delegated power, the controlling officer is required to ensure that the gross estimate under each respective subhead must not be exceeded without the prior approval of the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury. The controlling officer for *Subhead 084* is required to obtain the endorsement of the Legal Aid Services Council for his proposal and the associated financial implications.

##### Personnel Related Expenses

**9** Expenses on allowances under the following subheads include provisions for civil servants, judges and judicial officers and Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) officers where applicable.

**10** Provision of \$1 million under *Subhead 010 Recruiting expenses* is for expenses in respect of recruitment for administrative and general grades, and for other miscellaneous recruiting expenses.

**11** Provision of \$14,381,000 under *Subhead 011 Civil service examinations* is mainly for the payment of remuneration to examiners, moderators and invigilators and for other related expenses for examinations within, and for appointments to, the civil service.

**12** Provision of \$352,910,000 under *Subhead 013 Personal allowances* is for the payment of standard personal allowances to eligible officers. It comprises—

- \$341 million for the payment of mainland and local education allowance as well as overseas education allowance to officers whose eligible children are receiving education in the Mainland, Hong Kong or overseas. Only officers offered appointment before 1 August 1996 are eligible for overseas education allowance, and only officers offered appointment before 1 June 2000 are eligible for mainland and local education allowance;

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- \$11,900,000 for the payment of allowance in lieu of the provision of furniture and domestic appliances (only eligible officers offered appointment before 1 May 1999 are eligible for furniture and domestic appliances allowances); and
- \$10,000 for the payment of air-conditioning allowance to eligible judges and judicial officers. Provision of air-conditioning allowance has ceased for civil servants and ICAC officers with effect from 1 October 2006.

**13** Provision of \$564 million under *Subhead 014 Home purchase allowance* is for the payment of home purchase allowance to eligible officers offered appointment before 1 June 2000.

**14** Provision of \$26,500,000 under *Subhead 020 Payments to estates of deceased officers* is for the payment in respect of earned vacation leave to the estates of eligible officers who die in service.

**15** Provision of \$165 million under *Subhead 022 Passages* is for the payment of leave passage allowance, passages and related expenditure, including baggage and travelling allowances, in respect of eligible officers and their dependants, and children of eligible officers being educated overseas. For eligible officers appointed before 1 June 2000, the leave passage allowance is fully accountable, i.e. it only covers actual expenses for travel outside Hong Kong that has actually been undertaken within the period during which the officer and his family members are eligible for the allowance<sup>Ψ</sup>. Since early 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted seriously on outbound travel. To prevent eligible officers from accumulating an extraordinarily large amount of leave passage allowance rendering it not possible to estimate the annual expenditure with any accuracy, as well as the difficulty of releasing a large number of eligible officers to take leave to use their accumulated allowance when outbound travel resumes, exceptional arrangement has been made since July 2021 for eligible officers to claim reimbursement of leave passage allowance for local spending on items comparable to those travel-related expenses incurred outside Hong Kong. The increase of \$46 million (38.7%) over the revised estimate for 2022–23 is mainly due to the anticipated increase in the average amount of allowance with an extension of this exceptional arrangement and the gradual resumption of outbound travel. The provision comprises—

- \$136 million for the payment of leave passage allowance; and
- \$29 million for the payment of school passage.

<sup>Ψ</sup> Eligible officers offered appointment on or after 1 June 2000 are eligible for non-accountable leave passage allowance for themselves only and not their family members. Only dependants of officers offered appointment before 1 August 1996 are eligible for school passage.

**16** Provision of \$3,333,000 under *Subhead 023 Quarters* is for expenses incidental to the provision of housing benefits to eligible officers, and also expenses incurred when temporary accommodation needs to be provided to eligible officers.

**17** Provision of \$6,059,000 under *Subhead 024 Staff relief and welfare* is for the relief and welfare of eligible officers, including the purchase of retirement souvenirs and commemorative awards for long and meritorious service.

**18** Provision of \$190,664,000 under *Subhead 025 Long and Meritorious Service Travel Award Scheme* is for the awards granted to eligible officers and their companions under the above scheme, in recognition of the long and meritorious service of the officers concerned. The exceptional arrangement similar to that adopted for leave passage allowance, which has been made since July 2021, will continue in 2023–24. The increase of \$50,542,000 (36.1%) over the revised estimate for 2022–23 is mainly due to an anticipated increase in the amount of reimbursement claims from the awardees.

**19** Provision of \$3 million under *Subhead 028 Legal assistance* is for legal assistance to officers involved or likely to be involved in court proceedings for criminal offences, civil actions, death inquests, etc. as a result of their official duties. It represents an increase of \$500,000 (20%) over the revised estimate for 2022–23. The increase is mainly due to the higher projected expenditure incurred from the ongoing legal proceedings of approved cases.

**20** Provision of \$8 million under *Subhead 032 Accommodation allowance* is for the payment of accommodation allowance to eligible officers offered appointment between 1 October 1990 and 31 December 1998.

**21** Provision of \$693 million under *Subhead 033 Home financing allowance* is for the payment of home financing allowance to eligible officers offered appointment before 1 June 2000.

**22** Provision of \$1,600,000 under *Subhead 037 Pensioners' welfare fund* is for the payment of one-off grants to pensioners and dependants in financial hardship.

**23** Provision of \$46 million under *Subhead 038 Private tenancy allowance* is for the payment of private tenancy allowance to eligible officers offered appointment before 1 October 1990.

**24** Provision of \$500,000 under *Subhead 039 Rent allowance* is for the payment of rent allowance to eligible officers offered appointment between 1 January 1999 and 31 May 2000.

**25** Provision of \$3,488 million under *Subhead 040 Non-accountable cash allowance* is for the payment of non-accountable cash allowance to eligible officers who are offered appointment on or after 1 June 2000. The increase of \$659 million (23.3%) over the revised estimate for 2022–23 is mainly due to the anticipated increase in the average number of recipients in 2023–24 through salary progression, promotion and new appointment.



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**26** Provision of \$808,000 under *Subhead 041 Mandatory Provident Fund contribution* is for the employer's contribution under Mandatory Provident Fund Scheme for staff put under operational reserves. The increase of \$256,000 (46.4%) over the revised estimate for 2022–23 is mainly due to the expected increase in requirement in 2023–24.

**27** Provision of \$12,262,000 under *Subhead 042 Civil Service Provident Fund contribution* is for the Government's contribution under the Civil Service Provident Fund Scheme for staff put under operational reserves. The increase of \$2,135,000 (21.1%) over the revised estimate for 2022–23 is mainly due to the expected increase in requirement in 2023–24.