Controlling officer: the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2023–24	\$10,805.1m
Establishment ceiling 2023–24 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 11 494 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2023 reducing by 11 posts to 11 483 posts as at 31 March 2024	\$4,124.1m
In addition, there will be an estimated 20 directorate posts as at 31 March 2023 and as at 31 March 2024.	
Commitment balance	\$67.9m

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

Programme (1) Food Safety and Public Health	This programme contributes to Policy Area 2: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety (Secretary for Environment and Ecology).
Programme (2) Environmental Hygiene and Related Services Programme (3) Market Management and Hawker Control	These programmes contribute to Policy Area 32: Environmental Hygiene (Secretary for Environment and Ecology).
Programme (4) Public Education and Community Involvement	This programme contributes to Policy Area 2: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety (Secretary for Environment and Ecology) and Policy Area 32: Environmental Hygiene (Secretary for Environment and Ecology).

Detail

Programme (1): Food Safety and Public Health

	2021–22 (Actual)	2022–23 (Original)	2022–23 (Revised)	2023–24 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	1,521.7	1,565.1	1,602.3 (+2.4%)	1,633.8 (+2.0%)
				(or +4.4% on 2022–23 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to ensure that food available for human consumption is wholesome, hygienic and safe; and to safeguard public health through testing and control of live food animals and effective pest control.

Brief Description

- 3 The work involves:
- conducting risk assessment on food and providing timely information to the public;
- investigating and managing food incidents;
- exercising import control on high-risk food and issuing health certificates for food exports;
- exercising import control on live food animals;
- conducting inspections and tests on live food animals at licensed slaughterhouses;
- providing meat inspection services at licensed slaughterhouses;
- conducting food surveillance at various points of the food chain and taking enforcement actions;
- promoting the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) approach to the trade and the adoption of HACCP-based food safety plans;
- ensuring prepackaged food for sale is properly labelled;
- conducting risk assessment on pests affecting public health;

- taking control measures to prevent vector-borne diseases; and
- investigating incidents of vector-borne diseases.
- The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Plan)
	rarget	(Hetaar)	(Hetaar)	(1 1411)
initiating investigation of reports of food unfit for human consumption within	100	100	100	100
24 hours (%)applications for permission to import	100	100	100	100
game, meat and poultry to be processed				
within four working days (%)\(\lambda\)	98	100	100	98
applications for permission to import milk	90	100	100	70
and milk products to be processed				
	98	99	96#	98
within 12 working days (%)δapplications for permission to import	70	,,,	7011	70
frozen confections to be processed				
within 12 working days (%)ψ	98	99	97#	98
applications for export or re-export food	, ,		, ,	, ,
health certificates to be processed				
within 12 working days (%)	98	100	99	98
issuing veterinary health certificates for				
export food containing animal products				
within two working days (%)	100	100	100	100
testing pigs for beta-agonists (% of lots)	98	100	100	98
conducting inspections of farms exporting				
food animals to Hong Kong (no. of				
farms)	35	62@	60@	35
food surveillance through testing of food				
samples (no. of food samples tested per				
1 000 population per year)	9	9	9	9
initiating investigation of complaints				
about food labelling within	100	100	400	100
three working days (%)	100	100	100	100
initiating pest control measures within				
24 hours upon receiving report of	100	100	100	100
vector-borne diseases (%)	100	100	100	100
dealing with complaints on wasps/				
bees infestation within	100	100	100	100
six working days (%)	100	100	100	100
reducing the no. of priority rodent	50			50
blackspots (%)ρ	50	_	_	50

Revised description of the previous target "applications for import of game, meat and poultry to be processed within five working days" as from 2022. The description is further revised from "applications for import of game, meat and poultry to be processed within four working days" as from 2023 to enhance clarity. Revised description of the previous target "applications for import of milk and milk products to be processed

Document assessments were conducted due to the COVID-19 epidemic.

New target as from 2023.

Indicators

	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Estimate)
food complaints handled	5 260	4 834	4 900
applications for permission to import game, meat and poultry/	718	549	550
productsφ	420	398	400
applications for permission to import frozen confections Ω	496	510	510
export or re-export food health certificates issued	317	305	310

within 12 working days" as from 2023 to enhance clarity.

Extra time was taken to process the applications during the fifth wave of COVID-19 epidemic.

Revised description of the previous target "applications for import of frozen confections to be processed within 12 working days" as from 2023 to enhance clarity.

	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Estimate)
veterinary health certificates for export food containing			
animal products issued	1 521	1 419	1 420
targeted inspections of food trucks at food control points	12 304	12 057	12 000
samples taken from food animals for testing of veterinary			
drug residues	30 131	29 996	29 600
food samples taken for testing	65 539	63 348	65 500
labels checked	55 196	55 192	55 200
HACCP seminars/workshops	33	33	33
poison treatments of rodent infestation in building blocks	109 685	113 083	113 100
no. of rodent trappings	86 164	78 148	78 100
mosquito breeding places eliminated	72 012	72 252	72 300
pest control surveys conducted	11 343	11 154	11 300

- A Revised description of the previous indicator "applications for import of game, meat and poultry" as from 2023 to enhance clarity.
- φ Revised description of the previous indicator "applications for import of milk and milk products" as from 2023 to enhance clarity.
- Ω Revised description of the previous indicator "applications for import of frozen confections" as from 2023 to enhance clarity.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24

- 5 During 2023–24, the Department will:
- continue to review and update local food safety standards, guidelines and regulatory arrangements such as those for veterinary drug residues and additives in food;
- continue to re-engineer the workflow, and revamp and develop new information technology systems for the Centre for Food Safety for more effective management of data in food import and food safety incidents;
- continue to implement and trial new measures to enhance and sustain the effectiveness of its rodent control work, including continuing with the night rodent operations and trial use of new rodent control technologies and tools, etc.;
- strengthen co-operation with and provide necessary support for other departments and sectors to enhance rodent control; and
- continue to take forward initiatives to enhance pest control services and vector surveillance programmes to strengthen response to vector-borne diseases.

Programme (2): Environmental Hygiene and Related Services

	2021–22 (Actual)	2022–23 (Original)	2022–23 (Revised)	2023–24 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	5,929.6	6,441.7	6,566.3 (+1.9%)	6,697.2 (+2.0%)
				(or +4.0% on 2022–23 Original)

Aim

6 The aim is to provide quality environmental hygiene services and facilities, and to safeguard public health through licensing and regulation of licensed food premises.

Brief Description

- 7 The work involves:
- providing efficient and effective public cleansing services, including street cleansing and household waste collection, and management of public cleansing facilities such as public toilets and refuse collection points;
- licensing and inspecting food premises, and taking enforcement actions against unlicensed and unhygienic food premises;
- processing liquor licence applications and providing administrative support to the Liquor Licensing Board;
- licensing private swimming pools, commercial bathhouses, places of public entertainment, funeral parlours, undertakers, karaoke establishments in restaurants, slaughterhouses and offensive trades, and taking enforcement actions in relation to these activities;

- abating environmental nuisances relating to dripping air-conditioners and water seepage and cleaning up illegal refuse deposit blackspots;
- managing cremation and burial facilities, including public cemeteries, crematoria and columbaria; and
- regulating private columbaria under the Private Columbaria Ordinance (Cap. 630).
- **8** The key performance measures are:

New target as from 2023.

Targets

	Target	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Plan)
Cleansing completion of first round street sweeping services on main roads before 9:00 a.m. to ensure removal of over-night street litter (%)	99	100	100	99
Licensing of food premises holding of Application Vetting Panel meeting for restaurant licences within 20 working days from				
passing of initial screening (%) issuing of food business licences within seven working days from	99	100	100	99
confirmation of compliance (%) issuing of provisional licences for restaurants and other food premises within one working day from receipt of acceptable Certificates of Compliance for submissions over the	99	99	100	99
counter (%)	99 99	100	100	99 99
by Liquor Licensing Board (%) Licensing of private swimming pools, commercial bathhouses, places of public entertainment, funeral parlours, undertakers, karaoke establishments in restaurants, slaughterhouses and offensive trades issuing of Letters of Requirements within seven working days from clearance with concerned				
departments (%)issuing of licences within seven working days from	99	100	100	99
confirmation of compliance (%)	99	100	100	99
Cemeteries and crematoria booking of cremation sessions within 15 days (%) allocation of burial spaces on the day of application (%)	99 99	100 100	100 100	99 99
Government Programme on Tackling Hygiene Black Spots removal of no. of environmental hygiene black spots under the purview of the Department (%)φ	75	_	_	75

Indicators

	2021	2022	2023
	(Actual)	(Actual)	(Estimate)
refuse collected (tonnes)	2 238 212	2 231 850	2 232 000
recurrent expenditure per tonne of refuse collected ($\$$) Δ	295	300	300
sludge collected by gully emptiers (tonnes)	3 422	3 250	3 300
restaurant licences	16 148	16 916	16 900
other food-related licences			
(e.g. liquor, food factory, bakery)	23 879	25 470	25 500
restricted food permits (e.g. sushi and milk)	10 200	11 010	11 000
applications for new food business licences	4 920	3 740	3 700
applications for new restricted food permits	3 601	2 247	2 200
inspections to food premises	255 907	252 276	252 300
raids against illegal slaughtering	12	12	12
prosecutions against food premises			
licensed	3 090	3 152	3 200
unlicensed	4 833	4 013	4 000
food business licences suspended/cancelled	60	84	80
courses/seminars for Hygiene Supervisors	114	114	103
applications for private swimming pools, places of public			
entertainment and other licences (excluding applications			
for temporary licences)	80	113	110
inspections conducted to private swimming pools, places of			
public entertainment, etc	13 758	14 652	14 800
no. of cremations provided			
body	48 106	59 685	50 200
skeletal	1 690	2 267	2 300
no. of burials conducted			
coffin	843	996	850
urn	679	677	680
exhumation permits issued	4 273	4 242	4 200

Δ The figures represent unit expenditure for the respective financial years ending 31 March.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24

- 9 During 2023–24, the Department will:
- continue to support the District Matters Co-ordination Task Force led by the Deputy Chief Secretary to eliminate environmental hygiene blackspots and tackle "long-standing, major and difficult" district-based environmental hygiene and street management issues;
- strengthen street cleansing, refuse collection and clearance work and step up related enforcement and prosecution;
- continue to explore and apply new technology and automation to enhance environmental hygiene services;
- expedite the refurbishment or facelifting projects of public toilets under the Enhanced Public Toilet Refurbishment Programme;
- continue to improve the design and facilities of existing public toilets in phases, and improve the planning, provision and management of public toilets;
- enhance the hardware of refuse collection facilities in rural areas;
- implement the trial scheme to enable licensed food business to properly store refuse pending collection at rear lanes;
- take forward proposals to streamline the food licencing regime;
- continue to take stringent enforcement actions against unlicensed food premises and food premises which pose immediate health hazards or with illegal extension of food business areas;
- continue to take forward plans and projects to provide more crematorium and columbarium facilities;
- · continue to allocate new niches;
- continue to implement the Private Columbaria Ordinance by supporting the Private Columbaria Licensing Board in processing applications for a licence or other specified instruments for operating a private columbarium, and taking enforcement actions under the Ordinance; and
- continue to facilitate the Environmental Protection Department in taking over the management of refuse collection points and household refuse collection services from the Department as announced in the 2021 Policy Address.

Programme (3): Market Management and Hawker Control

	2021–22 (Actual)	2022–23 (Original)	2022–23 (Revised)	2023–24 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	2,271.7	2,455.3	2,300.8 (-6.3%)	2,398.7 (+4.3%)
				(or -2.3% on 2022-23 Original)

Aim

10 The aim is to provide new public market facilities at suitable locations, enhance viability of and maintain a clean and hygienic environment in existing public markets, and control on-street hawking activities.

Brief Description

- 11 The work involves:
- providing new public market facilities at suitable locations;
- managing and maintaining existing public markets, including modernisation works as appropriate;
- inspecting public markets to ensure cleanliness and compliance with tenancy requirements and conditions;
- · controlling and containing on-street hawking activities and obstruction;
- · managing licensed hawker pitches, hawker permitted places and hawker bazaars; and
- taking enforcement actions.
- 12 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Plan)
markets with common parts cleansed at least three times a day (%)stalls let (%)θresponding to complaints against illegal	100 90‡	100 88	100 86	100 90
hawking in built-up areas within 30 minutes (%)	98	100	99	98

θ In calculating the letting percentage, the number of stalls set aside for designated purposes has been included in the total number of stalls for letting.

Indicators

	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Estimate)
licensed hawkers			
fixed pitch hawkers	5 268	5 200	5 200
itinerant hawkers	330	304	290
estimated no. of unlicensed hawkers	1 149	804	800
raids by Hawker Control Teams	118 467	111 121	111 100
joint operations against illegal hawking			
with other departments	2 271	2 810	3 000
hawker blackspots	45	45	45

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023–24

- 13 During 2023–24, the Department will:
- continue to plan new public market facilities at suitable locations and take forward the proposed projects;
- continue to implement and keep under review the new management model and improvement measures introduced in new and overhauled public markets;
- continue to implement the Market Modernisation Programme to improve facilities of existing public markets;
- take action to close public markets which are under-utilised;

[‡] The target is revised from 85 per cent to 90 per cent as from 2023.

- enhance cleanliness and rodent control in public markets;
- continue to enforce against shop front extensions under the steer of the District Matters Co-ordination Task Force; and
- organise a number of bazaars in co-operation with non-governmental organisations.

Programme (4): Public Education and Community Involvement

	2021–22 (Actual)	2022–23 (Original)	2022–23 (Revised)	2023–24 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	73.5	72.4	74.9 (+3.5%)	75.4 (+0.7%)
				(or +4.1% on 2022–23 Original)

Aim

14 The aim is to promote food safety, maintenance of a hygienic environment and green burial through partnership with the community and multimedia publicity campaigns.

Brief Description

- 15 The work involves:
- enhancing public awareness of the importance of food safety and empowering consumers to make informed choices;
- educating the public on their responsibility in maintaining a clean and hygienic living environment;
- organising targeted public education and publicity programmes to mobilise community involvement and support for activities in keeping the environment clean; and
- promoting green burial as a more sustainable way to dispose of cremated human ashes.
- 16 The Department disseminates food safety, keep clean and green burial messages through television and radio Announcements in the Public Interest (APIs), social media such as Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, mobile applications, banners, posters, publicity stickers, pamphlets, leaflets and a publicity vehicle, as appropriate. In addition, talks and support are given at food safety and environmental hygiene activities organised by district bodies, non-governmental organisations, community groups and schools.
 - 17 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	2021 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Plan)
responding to requests from primary and secondary schools for talks on food safety and environmental hygiene within one week (%)responding to requests for information/	100	100	100	100
talks on food safety and environmental hygiene within one week (%)responding to requests from day care centres and residential care homes for	100	100	100	100
the elderly for talks on green burial within one week (%)	100 1	100 1	100 1	100 1
Indicators				
		2021 (Actual)	2022 (Actual)	2023 (Estimate)
seminars and activities for general public		958 0 1 19 241	944 0 1 18 276	1 170 1 1 18 360

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2023-24

- 18 During 2023–24, the Department will:
- continue the efforts in promoting public health, environmental hygiene and food safety, with special emphasis on domestic hygiene, through seminars and activities, and in collaboration with District Health Centres;
- enhance the publicity, public education and community engagement in rodent prevention and control;
- continue to devise and implement a strategic plan for encouraging reduced intake of salt and sugars in food to promote a healthy diet; and
- continue to promote green burial, particularly in respect of promotion of a central registration scheme.

ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2021–22 (Actual) (\$m)	2022–23 (Original) (\$m)	2022–23 (Revised) (\$m)	2023–24 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Food Safety and Public Health(2) Environmental Hygiene and Related	1,521.7	1,565.1	1,602.3	1,633.8
Services(3) Market Management and Hawker	5,929.6	6,441.7	6,566.3	6,697.2
Control	2,271.7	2,455.3	2,300.8	2,398.7
Involvement	73.5	72.4	74.9	75.4
	9,796.5	10,534.5	10,544.3 (+0.1%)	10,805.1 (+2.5%)

(or +2.6% on 2022–23 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2023–24 is \$31.5 million (2.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2022–23. This is mainly due to increased requirement for operating expenses. There will be a decrease of seven posts in 2023–24.

Programme (2)

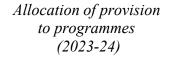
Provision for 2023–24 is \$130.9 million (2.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2022–23. This is mainly due to increased requirement for strengthening environmental hygiene services. There will be a net decrease of four posts in 2023–24.

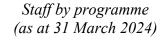
Programme (3)

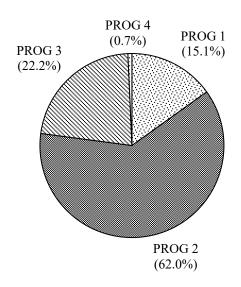
Provision for 2023–24 is \$97.9 million (4.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2022–23. This is mainly due to increased requirement for operating expenses.

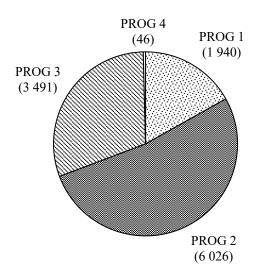
Programme (4)

Provision for 2023–24 is \$0.5 million (0.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2022–23. This is mainly due to increased requirement for operating expenses.

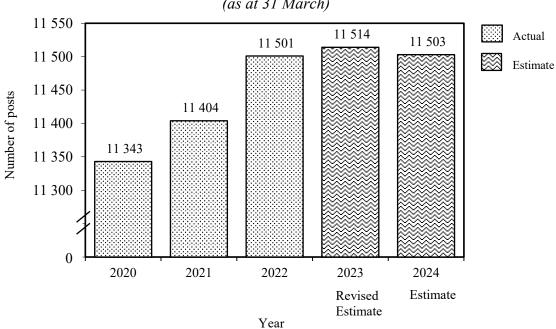








Changes in the size of the establishment (as at 31 March)



Sub- head (Code)		Actual expenditure 2021–22 \$\frac{\\$'000}{\}	Approved estimate 2022–23	Revised estimate 2022–23	Estimate 2023–24
	Operating Account	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000
	Recurrent				
000	Operational expenses	9,583,364	10,290,802	10,324,665	10,583,165
	Total, Recurrent	9,583,364	10,290,802	10,324,665	10,583,165
	Non-Recurrent				
700	General non-recurrent	25,147	22,482	11,080	20,353
	Total, Non-Recurrent	25,147	22,482	11,080	20,353
	Total, Operating Account	9,608,511	10,313,284	10,335,745	10,603,518
	Capital Account				
	Plant, Equipment and Works				
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)	187,965	221,202	208,553	201,612
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works	187,965	221,202	208,553	201,612
	Total, Capital Account	187,965	221,202	208,553	201,612
	Total Expenditure	9,796,476	10,534,486	10,544,298	10,805,130

Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2023–24 for the salaries and expenses of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department is \$10,805,130,000. This represents an increase of \$260,832,000 over the revised estimate for 2022–23 and \$1,008,654,000 over the actual expenditure in 2021–22.

Operating Account

Recurrent

- 2 Provision of \$10,583,165,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department.
- 3 The establishment as at 31 March 2023 will be 11 514 posts including four supernumerary posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of 11 posts 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 \$4,124,131,000.
 - 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 Allowances	3,844,772 53,283 84,322	4,016,001 58,628 90,486	3,963,091 66,984 95,976	4,032,229 66,984 95,976
Personnel Related Expenses				
Mandatory Provident Fund contribution - Civil Service Provident Fund	27,966	28,455	28,324	25,273
contribution	316,460	379,375	357,526	414,444
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	5,256,239	5,717,520	5,812,445	5,947,926
Other Charges				
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission	322	337	319	333
	9,583,364	10,290,802	10,324,665	10,583,165

Commitments

Sub- head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2022	Revised estimated expenditure for 2022–23	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Opera	ting Ac	count				
700		General non-recurrent				
	858	Ex-gratia payment to Food and Environmental Hygiene Department market tenants affected by market development plans	100,000	25,147	6.970	67,883
		Total	100,000	25,147	6,970	67,883