

Head 23 — AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE

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

Estimate 2024–25 **\$117.9m**

Establishment ceiling 2024–25 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 98 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2024 reducing by one post to 97 posts as at 31 March 2025... **\$40.4m**

In addition, there will be an estimated one directorate post as at 31 March 2024 and as at 31 March 2025.

Controlling Officer's Report

Programme

Auxiliary Medical Service

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

Detail

| | 2022–23 (Actual) | 2023–24 (Original) | 2023–24 (Revised) | 2024–25 (Estimate) |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Financial provision (\$m) | 101.4 | 108.3 | 104.2 (–3.8%) | 117.9 (+13.1%) |
| | | | | (or +8.9% on 2023–24 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 2023–24, AMS 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:

- non-emergency ambulance transfer service to clients referred by the Department of Health clinics, the Hospital Authority clinics, the Social Welfare Department institutions and private hospitals;
- first aid bicycle services at cycling tracks over the territory;
- manning of 18 methadone clinics for the Department of Health, and clinical service to this category of patients;
- manning of first aid posts at public functions and country parks;
- life-guard services for the Leisure and Cultural Services Department;
- certificate courses on paramedic training and short courses on first aid and paramedics 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 1 900 cadets as at 31 December 2023, provide national security education, health-care oriented training, whole-person development training for the youth aged between 12 and 18 by the enhanced “Health Awareness and Promotion Programme for Youth to University” (HAPPY to U). The programme aims at equipping the youth with professional medical and health knowledge and skills to facilitate their career planning.

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5 The key performance measures are:

Targets

| | Target man-hour | 2022 (Actual) | 2023 (Actual) | 2024 (Plan) |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| training for adult member@..... | 248 500 | 168 984 [^] | 204 045 [^] | 248 500[^] |
| training for cadet@..... | 67 600 | 26 892 [^] | 43 581 [^] | 67 600[^] |
| civil service training..... | 152 000 | 112 504 [^] | 158 364 [^] | 152 000[^] |
| non-emergency ambulance transfer service..... | 80 000 ^α | 50 484 | 56 730 | 80 000 |
| supplementary services..... | 243 000 | 567 602 ^Δ | 329 577 ^Δ | 243 000^Δ |

@ In response to the recommendations of the Audit Commission, the target “training of adult member” replaces the previous targets “recruit training”, “general regular training” and “centralised training” and the target “training of cadet” replaces the previous targets “cadet induction training”, “cadet general regular training”, “cadet centralised training” and “cadet exercise and visit” as from 2024 to provide an overview of the diversified training provided by AMS to different categories of members.

α The target is revised from 54 000 man-hours to 80 000 man-hours as more drivers and members have been recruited and deployed since July 2023 to enhance the non-emergency ambulance transfer service.

Indicators

| | 2022 (Actual) | 2023 (Actual) | 2024 (Estimate) |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| no. of training events for adult members ^τ | 535 [^] | 975 [^] | 950[^] |
| civil servants attending paramedic training | | | |
| first aid qualifying course..... | 4 053 [^] | 5 967 [^] | 6 000[^] |
| other certificate/short courses..... | 1 826 | 2 409 | 1 800 |
| new members recruited..... | 161 [^] | 324 [^] | 420[^] |
| new cadets recruited..... | 187 [^] | 485 [^] | 700[^] |
| no. of non-emergency ambulance transfer patients handled [¶] .. | 6 831 ^υ | 9 455 | 10 000 |
| supplementary services..... | | | |
| deployment of ambulance shift for operations ^β | 2 385 ^Δ | 1 163 ^Δ | 1 100^Δ |
| coverage at public functions..... | 910 | 712 | 700 |
| cases treated on country park and cycling track duties ^Ω | 2 063 | 2 475 | 2 600 |
| emergency services | | | |
| no. of man-hours for emergency duties (serious traffic accidents, disastrous fires, typhoons, rainstorms and major epidemics)..... | 6 843 ^η | 10 686 ^φ | 4 500 |
| no. of occasions of call-outs/operations in emergency duties..... | 577 ^η | 18 ^φ | 10 |

[^] The lower number in 2022 was due to disruption to training and recruitment of adult members and cadets amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The higher number in 2023 and the higher estimated number in 2024 was/is due to the resumption to normalcy.

^Δ The higher number in 2022 was due to the heavy commitment in COVID-19-related operations and duties. The lower number in 2023 and the lower estimated number in 2024 was/is due to the resumption to normalcy.

^τ The indicator replaces the previous indicators “members attending regular training” and “members attending centralised training” as from 2024 to better reflect the number of training events conducted.

[¶] The indicator replaces the previous indicator “response to non-emergency ambulance transfer requests” as from 2024 to better reflect the number of patients handled.

^υ The lower number in 2022 was mainly due to significant decrease in the number of follow up cases at hospital/clinic amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

^β Revised description of the previous indicator “response to ambulance calls” as from 2024.

^Ω Revised description of the previous indicator “cases treated on country park duty” as from 2024.

^η The figures include three typhoon manning operations and a number of emergency evacuation in COVID-19-related operations conducted in 2022.

^φ The figures include three typhoon manning operations and three emergency evacuation operations conducted in 2023.

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Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024–25

6 During 2024–25 AMS will:

- collaborate with various organisations to explore and identify opportunity to recruit new adult members and cadets;
- promote personal development and a sense of achievement to retain adult members and cadets;
- review contents of cadet training with a view to improving the attractiveness to the youth and work closely with the Hong Kong Metropolitan University to enhance the “HAPPY to U” programme so as to encourage the cadets’ participation in various training and activities;
- enhance non-emergency ambulance transfer service to serve the needy groups; and
- continue to provide national security education to adult members and cadets.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

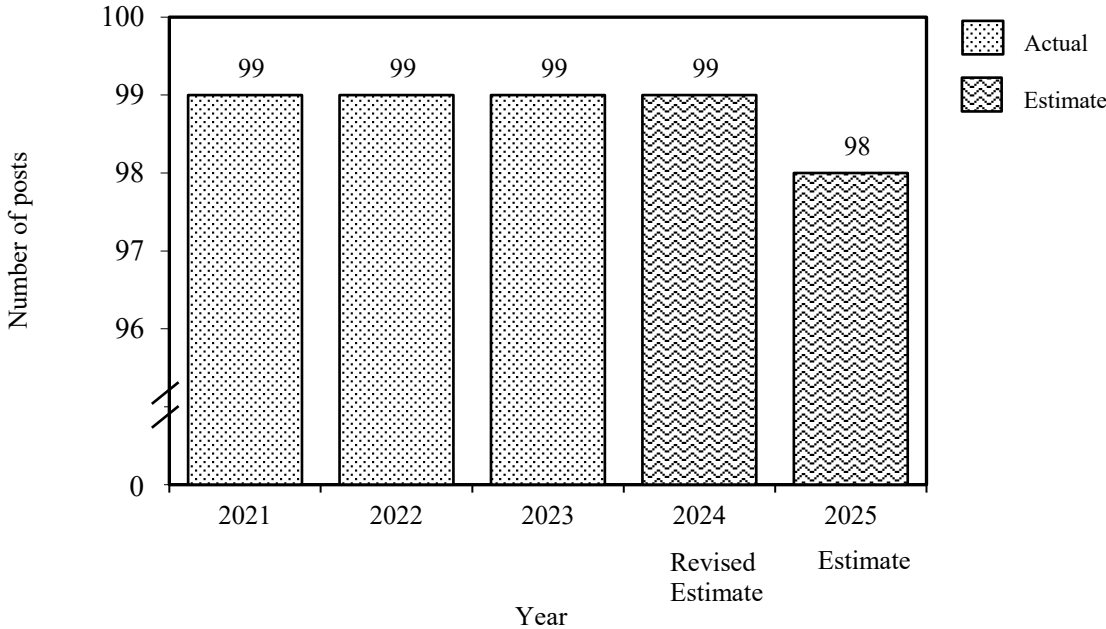
| Programme | 2022–23 (Actual) (\$m) | 2023–24 (Original) (\$m) | 2023–24 (Revised) (\$m) | 2024–25 (Estimate) (\$m) |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Auxiliary Medical Service | 101.4 | 108.3 | 104.2 (–3.8%) | 117.9 (+13.1%) |
| | | | | (or +8.9% on 2023–24 Original) |

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2024–25 is \$13.7 million (13.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 2023–24. This is mainly due to the increased provisions for salaries and the enhancement of non-emergency ambulance transfer service.

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



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| Sub-head (Code) | Actual expenditure 2022-23 | Approved estimate 2023-24 | Revised estimate 2023-24 | Estimate 2024-25 | |
|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | |
| Operating Account | | | | | |
| Recurrent | | | | | |
| 000 | Operational expenses | 97,514 | 106,370 | 102,703 | 116,133 |
| | Total, Recurrent..... | 97,514 | 106,370 | 102,703 | 116,133 |
| | Total, Operating Account | 97,514 | 106,370 | 102,703 | 116,133 |
| <hr/> | | | | | |
| Capital Account | | | | | |
| Plant, Equipment and Works | | | | | |
| 661 | Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)..... | 3,841 | 1,909 | 1,508 | 1,732 |
| | Total, Plant, Equipment and Works..... | 3,841 | 1,909 | 1,508 | 1,732 |
| | Total, Capital Account..... | 3,841 | 1,909 | 1,508 | 1,732 |
| <hr/> | | | | | |
| | Total Expenditure | 101,355 | 108,279 | 104,211 | 117,865 |
| | | <u>101,355</u> | <u>108,279</u> | <u>104,211</u> | <u>117,865</u> |

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2024–25 for the salaries and expenses of the Auxiliary Medical Service (AMS) is \$117,865,000. This represents an increase of \$13,654,000 over the revised estimate for 2023–24 and \$16,510,000 over the actual expenditure in 2022–23.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$116,133,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the AMS. The increase of \$13,430,000 (13.1%) over the revised estimate for 2023–24 is mainly due to the increased provisions for salaries and the enhancement of non-emergency ambulance transfer service.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2024 will be 99 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of one post in 2024–25. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2024–25, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$40,364,000.

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

| | 2022–23 (Actual) (\$'000) | 2023–24 (Original) (\$'000) | 2023–24 (Revised) (\$'000) | 2024–25 (Estimate) (\$'000) |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Personal Emoluments | | | | |
| - Salaries | 40,043 | 40,862 | 40,119 | 44,143 |
| - Allowances | 561 | 438 | 575 | 432 |
| - Job-related allowances..... | 634 | 81 | 343 | 138 |
| Personnel Related Expenses | | | | |
| - Mandatory Provident Fund contribution | 142 | 148 | 178 | 169 |
| - Civil Service Provident Fund contribution | 3,489 | 4,385 | 4,003 | 4,804 |
| Departmental Expenses | | | | |
| - General departmental expenses | 22,561 | 20,100 | 20,796 | 24,674 |
| Other Charges | | | | |
| - Pay and allowances for the auxiliary services..... | 28,884 | 39,056 | 35,389 | 39,899 |
| - Training expenses for the auxiliary services..... | 1,200 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,874 |
| | 97,514 | 106,370 | 102,703 | 116,133 |

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

5 Provision of \$1,732,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents an increase of \$224,000 (14.9%) over the revised estimate for 2023–24. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for replacement of equipment in 2024–25.