

Head 151 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: SECURITY BUREAU

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

Estimate 2024–25	\$1,464.0m
Establishment ceiling 2024–25 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 229 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2024 reducing by one post to 228 posts as at 31 March 2025	\$154.0m
In addition, there will be an estimated 15 directorate posts as at 31 March 2024 and as at 31 March 2025.	
Commitment balance	\$2,880.0m

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

	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Original)	2023–24 (Revised)	2024–25 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	16.1	16.6	16.6 (—)	16.9 (+1.8%)
				(or +1.8% on 2023–24 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

	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Original)	2023–24 (Revised)	2024–25 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	858.9	935.8	908.9 (–2.9%)	1,083.5 (+19.2%)
				(or +15.8% on 2023–24 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 2023–24, the Bureau continued to:

- oversee the maintenance of law and order and public safety in Hong Kong;
- implement the Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme (FSWS) to subsidise owners of old composite buildings to take fire safety enhancement measures as required by the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572);
- 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
- 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 2024–25

8 During 2024–25, the Bureau will:

- continue to oversee counter-terrorism policy and the operation of the Inter-departmental Counter-terrorism Unit;
- take forward the gradual opening of the Sha Tau Kok Frontier Closed Area (except Chung Ying Street) for promoting cultural and eco-tourism whilst ensuring adequate security controls;
- continue to undertake preparatory work for the amendment of sexual offences provisions with reference to the review on sexual offences conducted by the Law Reform Commission;
- take forward the legislative exercise on enhancing the protection of cybersecurity of critical infrastructure;
- continue to improve correctional services and facilities, and oversee the provision of rehabilitation services for persons in custody;
- continue with the legislative amendment work 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 of the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance, and to recover related fees from them afterwards;
- continue to implement the FSWS;
- 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.

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Programme (3): Immigration Control

	2022–23 (Actual)	2023–24 (Original)	2023–24 (Revised)	2024–25 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	271.7	343.1	337.8 (–1.5%)	363.6 (+7.6%)
				(or +6.0% on 2023–24 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 2023–24, the Bureau:

- continued to oversee the operation of a unified screening mechanism (USM) to assess non-refoulement claims on all applicable grounds, and adopt a multi-pronged strategy in handling non-refoulement claims;
- devised and introduced enhanced measures for the handling of non-refoulement claims, including implementing the updated removal policy to expedite removal of unsubstantiated claimants, expanding detention capacity, strengthening management of immigration detainees, etc.;
- continued to oversee the operation of the Pilot Scheme for Provision of Publicly-funded Legal Assistance for Non-refoulement Claimants and to map out the long-term way forward on the provision of publicly-funded legal assistance to non-refoulement claimants;
- took forward the subsidiary legislation for implementation of the Advance Passenger Information (API) system, and oversaw the related system procurement and development by the Immigration Department;
- 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 and the promotion of our country's consular protection;
- oversaw the Immigration Department's implementation of various enhancement measures to attract outside talent, professionals and entrepreneurs to come to Hong Kong;
- oversaw the ongoing enhancement to visa application procedures;
- continued to keep the visa requirements for foreign visitors under review, especially nationals of countries along the Belt and Road;
- oversaw the implementation of the Pilot Scheme on Immigration Facilitation for Visitors Participating in Short-term Activities in Designated Sectors; and
- oversaw the implementation of the territory-wide identity card replacement exercise.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2024–25

13 During 2024–25, the Bureau will:

- continue to oversee the operation of the USM, the implementation of the enhanced measures for the handling of non-refoulement claims, and the removal of unsubstantiated claimants;
- sustain the provision of publicly-funded legal assistance to non-refoulement claimants;

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- take forward the enactment of the subsidiary legislation for implementation of the API system and oversee the timely development of the system by the Immigration Department for rolling out in the third quarter of 2024;
- monitor the need for extending the operating hours of control points to further facilitate passenger and cargo flow;
- co-ordinate the development and implementation of co-location arrangement at the new Huanggang Port;
- oversee the progress of the engineering feasibility study for the proposed redevelopment of Sha Tau Kok Port/Control Point;
- 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 and the promotion of our country's consular protection;
- continue to keep the visa requirements for foreign visitors under review, especially nationals of countries along the Belt and Road;
- continue to oversee the implementation of the Pilot Scheme on Immigration Facilitation for Visitors Participating in Short-term Activities in Designated Sectors and keep its effectiveness under review; and
- continue to oversee the Immigration Department's implementation of various measures to enhance its capacity in processing identity card applications.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

	2022–23 (Actual) (\$m)	2023–24 (Original) (\$m)	2023–24 (Revised) (\$m)	2024–25 (Estimate) (\$m)
Programme				
(1) Director of Bureau’s Office	16.1	16.6	16.6	16.9
(2) Internal Security	858.9	935.8	908.9	1,083.5
(3) Immigration Control	271.7	343.1	337.8	363.6
	1,146.7	1,295.5	1,263.3 (–2.5%)	1,464.0 (+15.9%)
				(or +13.0% on 2023–24 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2024–25 is \$0.3 million (1.8%) higher than the revised estimate for 2023–24. This is mainly due to the increased provision for salary increment, partly offset by the decreased requirement in departmental expenses.

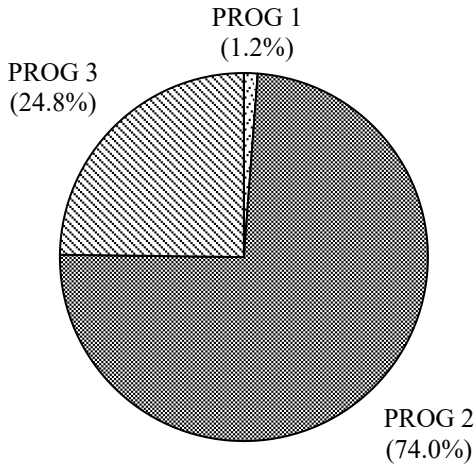
Programme (2)

Provision for 2024–25 is \$174.6 million (19.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 2023–24. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for the FSWS and increased requirement in departmental expenses, partly offset by a net decrease of one post.

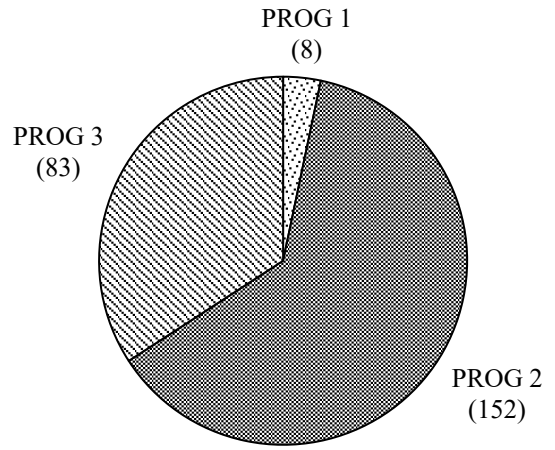
Programme (3)

Provision for 2024–25 is \$25.8 million (7.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2023–24. This is mainly due to the increased provision for legal assistance to non-refoulement claimants, honoraria for members of committees and other professional fees, partly offset by the decreased requirement in departmental expenses.

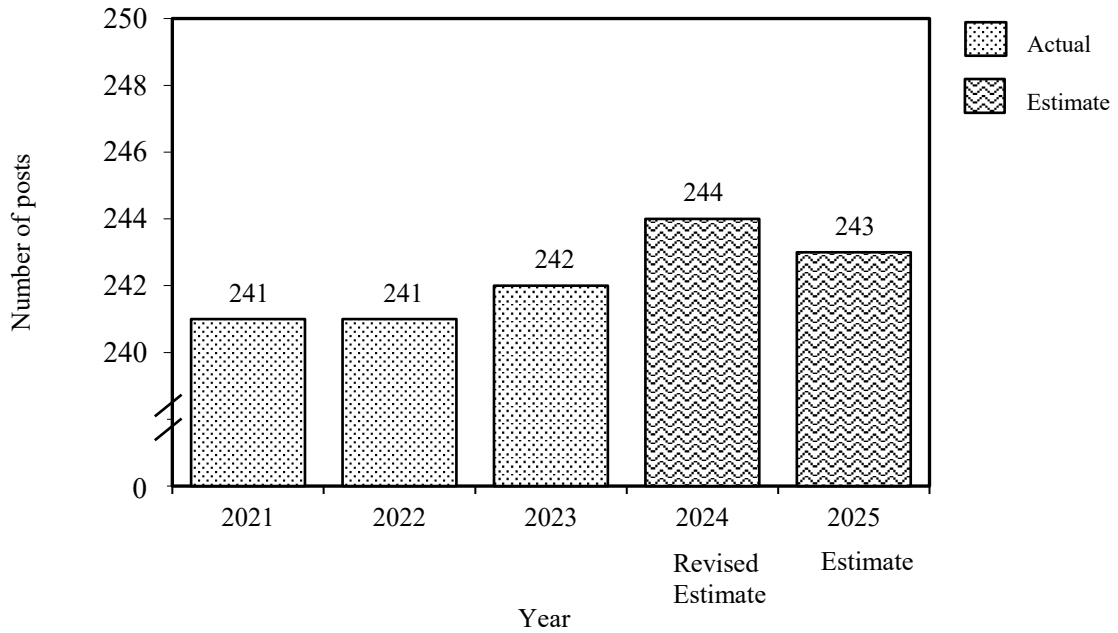
Allocation of provision to programmes (2024-25)



Staff by programme (as at 31 March 2025)



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	595,870	643,482	611,309	684,019
	Total, Recurrent.....	595,870	643,482	611,309	684,019
Non-Recurrent					
700	General non-recurrent	550,000	650,000	650,000	780,000
	Total, Non-Recurrent.....	550,000	650,000	650,000	780,000
	Total, Operating Account	1,145,870	1,293,482	1,261,309	1,464,019
Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	836	1,985	1,985	—
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	836	1,985	1,985	—
	Total, Capital Account.....	836	1,985	1,985	—
	Total Expenditure	1,146,706	1,295,467	1,263,294	1,464,019

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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 Security Bureau is \$1,464,019,000. This represents an increase of \$200,725,000 over the revised estimate for 2023–24 and \$317,313,000 over the actual expenditure in 2022–23.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$684,019,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Security Bureau. The increase of \$72,710,000 (11.9%) over the revised estimate for 2023–24 is mainly due to increased provision for legal assistance to non-refoulement claimants, honoraria for members of committees and salary increment.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2024 will be 244 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 \$153,982,000.

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	186,905	201,621	200,805	208,246
- Allowances	9,325	7,642	7,802	8,599
- Job-related allowances.....	210	23	35	23
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	395	235	343	278
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	15,886	16,123	15,409	16,689
Departmental Expenses				
- Honoraria for members of committees.....	50,513	89,291	73,343	94,229
- General departmental expenses	257,813	218,218	234,044	252,153
Other Charges				
- World Customs Organization.....	203	—	—	—
- United Nations International Drug Control Programme and World Health Organization.....	217	217	217	217
- Action Committee Against Narcotics.....	4,600	—	—	—
Subventions				
- Legal assistance scheme for non-refoulement claimants by the Duty Lawyer Service.....	69,803	110,112	79,311	103,585
	595,870	643,482	611,309	684,019

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Commitments

Sub- head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2023	Revised estimated expenditure for 2023–24	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	1,970,000	650,000	2,880,000
		Total	5,500,000	1,970,000	650,000	2,880,000