

Head 27 — CIVIL AID SERVICE

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

Estimate 2026–27 **\$138.3m**

Establishment ceiling 2026–27 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 105 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2026 reducing by three posts to 102 posts as at 31 March 2027..... **\$48.6m**

In addition, there will be an estimated one directorate post as at 31 March 2026 and 31 March 2027.

Controlling Officer’s Report

Programme

Civil Aid Service

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

Detail

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	153.8	154.9	147.9 (–4.5%)	138.3 (–6.5%)
				(or –10.7% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

2 The aim is to provide an effective auxiliary force, which has 3 090 officers/members as at 31 December 2025, to augment the Government’s regular emergency services in emergency situations, to provide civic services to government departments and outside agencies, and to provide young people with the opportunity to develop self-confidence and civic-mindedness through participation in the Civil Aid Service (CAS) Cadet Corps.

Brief Description

3 CAS is responsible for providing emergency and civic services to government departments, outside agencies and the general public. This work involves:

- providing support to the Government’s regular emergency services in counter-disaster activities, mountain search and rescue, and countryside protection duties;
- providing crowd control and crowd management services in major public functions;
- assisting people in need of help in country parks and hiking trails;
- staging performances to enhance public attention at major campaigns or activities organised by government departments and outside agencies; and
- providing, through the CAS Cadet Corps which has 4 108 cadets as at 31 December 2025, youth aged between 12 and 17 with specific training in discipline and skills, and an orientation towards civic duty.

4 In 2025–26, CAS continued to provide efficient and effective auxiliary emergency and civic services to government departments and outside agencies. These services included typhoon duties; flood rescue; mountain search and rescue; countryside fire fighting and protection; community services; training on mountain rescue, hiking safety and work safety at height; and contingency response training to handle radiological incidents.

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5 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target man-hour	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Plan)
providing standby teams on Sundays and general holidays for immediate deployment to handle emergencies (mountain search and rescue, countryside fire fighting)	32 000	36 000	31 000	32 000
providing crowd management services for major public functions	78 000	74 000	95 000 ^λ	78 000
patrolling the country parks and hiking trails	44 000	44 000	41 000 [^]	44 000
providing performances for the public in major government campaigns and activities	6 000	6 000	6 200	6 000
providing full-time and part-time training for CAS members through the CAS Training School	72 000	78 000	72 000	72 000
providing full-time and part-time training for CAS cadets in skills and discipline through the CAS Training School	85 000	76 000 ^α	77 000 [#]	85 000
providing recreational and social activities for CAS cadets	125 000	100 000 ^α	105 000 ^β	125 000
providing community services by CAS cadets	20 000	13 000 ^α	20 000	20 000
providing training on mountain rescue, hiking safety and work safety at height for staff of government departments and non-governmental organisations and public education	30 000 [◇]	48 000 [@]	50 000 [@]	35 000

^λ The actual figure was higher than the target mainly due to the additional manpower deployed for the 15th National Games (NG), the 12th National Games for Persons with Disabilities (NGD) and the ninth National Special Olympic Games (NSOG) and the 2025 Legislative Council General Election (LCGE).

[^] The actual figure was lower than the target mainly due to the cancellation of patrolling duties caused by the impact of tropical cyclones.

^α The actual figures in 2024 were lower than the targets mainly due to the lower-than-expected demands for training, recreational, social activities and community services in 2024.

[#] The actual figure was lower than the target mainly due to the lower-than-expected demand for new cadet induction training.

^β The actual figure was lower than the target mainly due to the rescheduling of a large-scale recreational and social activity from 2025 to 2026.

[◇] The target was revised from 20 000 man-hours to 30 000 man-hours as from 2025 given the increased demand for public education programmes from schools and non-governmental organisations in recent years.

[@] The actual figures were higher than the target mainly due to the increased demand for public education programmes from schools and non-governmental organisations.

Indicators

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Estimate)
no. of occasions of call-out operations in emergency duties			
mountain search and rescue	43	61 ^φ	60
countryside fire fighting	13	9	10
typhoons, flooding, mudslip and others	9	10	10
no. of occasions of crowd management and other			
civic duties	201	171 ^μ	180
no. of performances in major government campaigns and activities	62	44 ^Ω	50
no. of full-time and part-time training courses for CAS members through the CAS Training School	208	201	220
no. of full-time and part-time training courses for CAS cadets through the CAS Training School	176	216 ^Δ	170
no. of recreational and social activities for CAS cadets	340	464 ^Δ	300

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	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	2026 (Estimate)
no. of community services activities by CAS cadets	100	145Δ	120
no. of training courses/activities on mountain rescue, hiking safety and work safety at height for staff of government departments and non-governmental organisations and public education.....	100	121γ	100

- φ The higher number in 2025 was mainly due to the increase in demand for emergency duties.
- μ The lower number in 2025 was mainly due to the deployment of most CAS members for large-scale events, such as Kai Tak Sports Park's stress tests, the 15th NG, the 12th NGD, the ninth NSOG and the 2025 LCGE.
- Ω The lower number in 2025 was mainly due to fewer opportunities for performances by CAS.
- Δ The higher number in 2025 was mainly due to the increased events for cadets' training, activities and services.
- γ The higher number in 2025 was mainly due to the increased demand for public education programmes for schools and non-governmental organisations.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

6 During 2026–27, CAS will continue to provide staff and auxiliary officers with training conducted by professional bodies in disaster management, operating automated external defibrillators, tree cutting and flood rescue. To further enhance the promotion of youth engagement, CAS will continue to conduct public education programmes for the younger generations in Hong Kong; and will implement the “CAS Cadet Attachment Programme” to provide opportunity to CAS cadets to strengthen the understanding and gain hands-on experience in the operations of CAS through job shadowing. CAS also collaborates with the Hong Kong Baptist University and the Education University of Hong Kong to provide their students, as well as CAS adult members and cadets, with multi-faceted learning and exchange opportunities.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

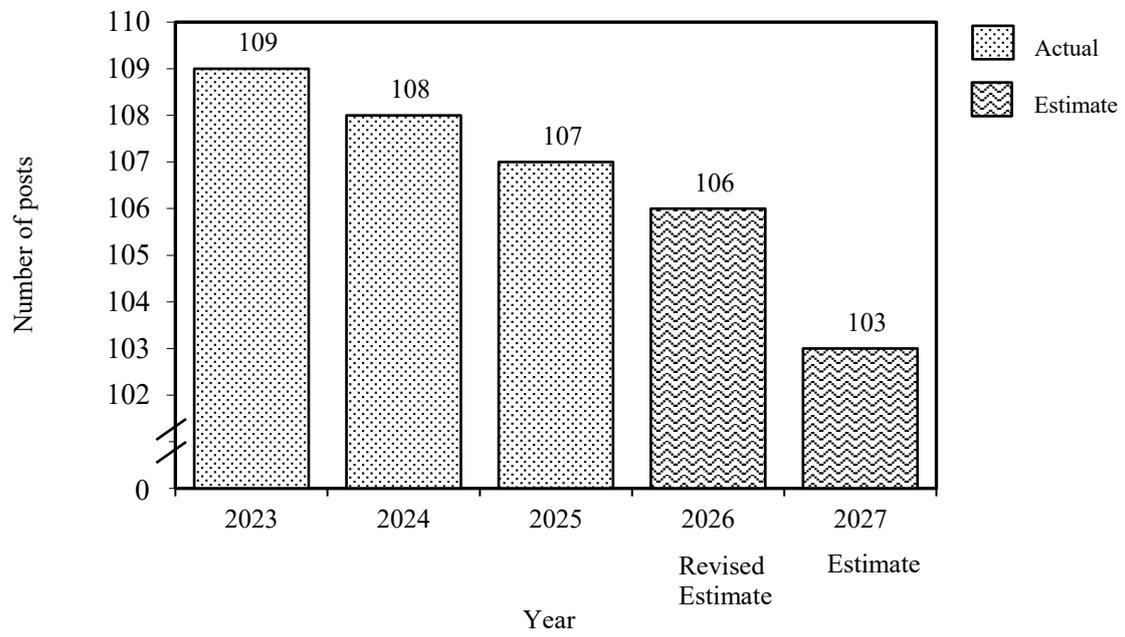
Programme	2024–25 (Actual) (\$m)	2025–26 (Original) (\$m)	2025–26 (Revised) (\$m)	2026–27 (Estimate) (\$m)
Civil Aid Service	153.8	154.9	147.9 (–4.5%)	138.3 (–6.5%)
				(or –10.7% on 2025–26 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Provision for 2026–27 is \$9.6 million (6.5%) lower than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the lapse of provision for the 15th NG, the 12th NGD and the ninth NSOG, decreased provision for pay and allowances for the auxiliary services and decreased cash flow requirement for procurement and replacement of plant and equipment, partly offset by the increased provision for salaries. There will be a net decrease of three posts in 2026–27.

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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2024–25	Approved estimate 2025–26	Revised estimate 2025–26	Estimate 2026–27	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	144,870	145,816	138,757	130,611
	Total, Recurrent.....	144,870	145,816	138,757	130,611
	Total, Operating Account	144,870	145,816	138,757	130,611
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Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	8,971	9,105	9,105	7,688
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	8,971	9,105	9,105	7,688
	Total, Capital Account.....	8,971	9,105	9,105	7,688
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	Total Expenditure	153,841	154,921	147,862	138,299
		<u>153,841</u>	<u>154,921</u>	<u>147,862</u>	<u>138,299</u>

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2026–27 for the salaries and expenses of the Civil Aid Service is \$138,299,000. This represents a decrease of \$9,563,000 against the revised estimate for 2025–26 and \$15,542,000 against the actual expenditure in 2024–25.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$130,611,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Civil Aid Service.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2026 will be 106 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of three posts in 2026–27. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2026–27, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$48,600,000.

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

	2024–25 (Actual) (\$'000)	2025–26 (Original) (\$'000)	2025–26 (Revised) (\$'000)	2026–27 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	49,790	52,309	50,145	52,604
- Allowances	442	611	611	1,362
- Job-related allowances.....	77	127	163	128
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	122	126	118	173
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	4,241	4,704	4,447	4,724
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	42,876	32,891	43,314	39,011
Other Charges				
- Pay and allowances for the auxiliary services.....	43,702	51,029	37,923	30,947
- Training expenses for the auxiliary services.....	3,620	4,019	2,036	1,662
	144,870	145,816	138,757	130,611

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

5 Provision of \$7,688,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents a decrease of \$1,417,000 (15.6%) against the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the decreased cash flow requirement for procurement and replacement of plant and equipment in 2026–27.