

**Head 137 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY  
BUREAU (ENVIRONMENT BRANCH)**

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**Controlling officer:** the Permanent Secretary for Environment and Ecology (Environment) will account for expenditure under this Head.

**Estimate 2026–27** ..... **\$630.0m**

**Establishment ceiling 2026–27** (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 207 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2026 reducing by five posts to 202 posts as at 31 March 2027 ..... **\$163.4m**

In addition, there will be an estimated 12 directorate posts as at 31 March 2026 and 31 March 2027.

**Commitment balance**..... **\$1,776.9m**

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**Controlling Officer’s Report**

**Programmes**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Programme (1) Director of Bureau’s Office</b>  | This programme contributes to Policy Area 27: Intra-Governmental Services (Secretary for Environment and Ecology).  |
| <b>Programme (2) Power<br/>Programme (3) Sustainable Development<br/>Programme (4) Environmental Protection<br/>Programme (5) Nature Conservation</b> | These programmes contribute to Policy Area 23: Environmental Protection, Conservation, Power and Sustainable Development (Secretary for Environment and Ecology).   |
| <b>Programme (6) Climate Change</b>   | This programme contributes to Policy Area 7: Public Safety (Secretary for Environment and Ecology) and Policy Area 23: Environmental Protection, Conservation, Power and Sustainable Development (Secretary for Environment and Ecology). |

**Detail**

**Programme (1): Director of Bureau’s Office**

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	<b>2026–27 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	22.3	21.1	22.1 (+4.7%)	<b>22.2</b> (+0.5%)
				(or +5.2% on 2025–26 Original)

**Aim**

- 2** The aim is to ensure the smooth operation of the Office of the Secretary for Environment and Ecology.

**Brief Description**

- 3** The Office of the Secretary for Environment and Ecology is responsible for providing support to the Secretary for Environment and Ecology 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 Environment and Ecology in carrying out his duties. The work includes planning, co-ordination and implementation of all arrangements for the Secretary’s public, media and community functions.

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**Programme (2): Power**

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	<b>2026–27 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	1,774.6	1,586.8	1,542.2 (–2.8%)	<b>70.4</b> (–95.4%)
				(or –95.6% on 2025–26 Original)

***Aim***

**4** The aims are to ensure safe, reliable and efficient energy supply at reasonable prices while minimising the environmental impact caused by the production and use of energy through the established monitoring arrangements for the operation of the two power companies and the town gas supply company; to enhance electrical and gas safety through the introduction and enforcement of safety standards; to promote competition and transparency in the local fuel market; to promote the adoption of renewable energy; and to raise public awareness of and achieve energy efficiency and conservation through education, promotion, and implementation of various programmes.

***Brief Description***

**5** The Branch's main responsibility under this programme is to formulate policies and programmes in relation to energy supply, electrical and gas safety, renewable energy as well as energy efficiency and conservation.

**6** In 2025–26, the Branch:

- oversaw the implementation of the various programmes and schemes in relation to the promotion of energy efficiency and conservation and the development of renewable energy under the Scheme of Control Agreements;
- promoted decarbonisation in electricity generation and energy efficiency and conservation as per the direction set out in the Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050;
- worked with relevant bureaux and departments to formulate plans and take various measures with a view to improving the overall energy performance of government buildings and infrastructure;
- encouraged the wider application of renewable energy at government buildings and facilities and promoted the development of renewable energy in the private sector, including the implementation of measures to facilitate the installation of solar energy generation systems in open car parks;
- oversaw the introduction of the Buildings Energy Efficiency (Amendment) Bill 2025 into the Legislative Council and the implementation of the updated Building Energy Code and Energy Audit Code;
- oversaw the implementation of Phase IV of Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MEELS) and the third review of the Grading Standards under the Scheme covering refrigerating appliances, washing machines and storage type electric water heaters to uplift the energy efficiency standards;
- oversaw the construction and operation of the District Cooling System (DCS) projects in the Kai Tak Development, took forward the implementation of DCS projects in the Kwu Tung North New Development Area and Tung Chung New Town Extension (East), and conducted a review on the implementation of DCS in New Development Areas;
- pursued the Energy Saving and Decarbonisation for All 2025 Campaign including the Energy Saving Charter 2025 and 4T Charter to promote public awareness of energy efficiency and conservation measures;
- oversaw the distribution of electricity charges relief to eligible residential electricity accounts to alleviate the increase in electricity charges during the transitional period in moving to a lower carbon future;
- oversaw the enhanced Charter on External Lighting to encourage owners of and responsible persons for external lighting installations of decorative, promotional or advertising purposes affecting the outdoor environment to switch off such lighting installations at an earlier preset time; and
- oversaw the two power companies' establishment and operation of the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal which allows them to purchase LNG from international market directly.

***Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27***

**7** During 2026–27, the Branch will:

- continue to oversee the implementation of the various programmes and schemes to promote energy efficiency and conservation and the development of renewable energy;
- continue to promote decarbonisation in electricity generation and energy efficiency and conservation as per the direction set out in the Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050;

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- continue to conduct energy audits as well as retro-commissioning, implement energy saving projects and install renewable energy systems in government buildings and infrastructure to improve the overall energy performance of government premises;
- continue to review the MEELS to further enhance energy efficiency at appliances level;
- continue to promote energy efficiency and conservation in buildings, including implementing the amended Buildings Energy Efficiency Ordinance and the Building Energy Code and Energy Audit Code 2024 edition;
- continue to oversee the operation and implementation of the government-led DCS projects and formulate an enhancement scheme to encourage and facilitate the commissioning of DCS by non-governmental entities; and
- continue to oversee the administration of electricity charges relief.

**Programme (3): Sustainable Development**

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	40.3	42.6	40.3 (–5.4%)	42.4 (+5.2%)
				(or –0.5% on 2025–26 Original)

***Aim***

- 8** The aim is to promote sustainable development (SD) in Hong Kong.

***Brief Description***

**9** The Branch’s main responsibility under this programme is to ensure the incorporation of sustainability considerations into the Government’s decision-making process through the sustainability assessment (SA) system; promote understanding and application of the SD principles as well as the SA system among bureaux and departments; and implement education and publicity programmes to promote public awareness and understanding of the principles of SD.

***Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27***

- 10** During 2026–27, the Branch will:
- continue to implement education and publicity programmes and conduct a review to enhance their cost-effectiveness;
  - review the implementation of the SA system to identify areas for improvement; and
  - update training programmes for bureaux and departments on the SD principles and the SA system.

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**Programme (4): Environmental Protection**

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	<b>2026–27 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	81.4	155.0	122.8 (–20.8%)	<b>239.4</b> (+95.0%)
				(or +54.5% on 2025–26 Original)

***Aim***

**11** The aim is to promote a healthy and pleasant environment of Hong Kong for the benefit of the community and future generations.

***Brief Description***

**12** The Branch’s main responsibility under this programme is to formulate and oversee implementation of policies in relation to air and water quality improvement, pollution control of air, water and noise, waste management, environmental impact assessment and promotion of green transport.

***Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27***

**13** During 2026–27, the Branch will:

- continue to promote green transport in accordance with the Green Transformation Roadmap of Public Buses and Taxis announced in December 2024 and the Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles updated in February 2026 with a view to achieving zero vehicular emission before 2050;
- continue to monitor and facilitate hydrogen fuel cell heavy vehicle trials under the Inter-departmental Working Group on Using Hydrogen as Fuel and the New Energy Transport Fund;
- proceed with amendments to the relevant Air Pollution Control Regulations to (i) tighten the sulphur content limit of marine light diesel; and (ii) extend the control of volatile organic compounds content to cleaning products and tighten the control on architectural paints;
- formulate two pieces of new subsidiary legislation under the Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance (Cap. 403) to implement the Kigali Amendment to phase down the consumption of 18 high Global Warming Potential hydrofluorocarbons;
- proceed with the legislative amendments to update relevant noise emission standards for vehicles upon first registration under the Noise Control (Motor Vehicles) Regulation (Cap. 400I);
- take forward the initiatives under the Action Plan on Green Maritime Fuel Bunkering in Hong Kong jointly with the Transport and Logistics Bureau to promote the adoption of green fuels and new energy;
- oversee the implementation of waste-to-resources management strategies and programmes;
- oversee the formulation of subsidiary legislation to implement producer responsibility schemes on plastic beverage containers and beverage cartons, and electric vehicle batteries; the optimisation of community recycling network and food waste recycling schemes, as well as the implementation of measures to encourage public participation in recycling; and
- oversee the administration of the Sewage Services Charging Scheme.

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**Programme (5): Nature Conservation**

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	<b>2026–27 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	134.0	119.6	121.2 (+1.3%)	<b>114.3</b> (–5.7%)
				(or –4.4% on 2025–26 Original)

***Aim***

**14** The aim is to regulate, protect and manage natural resources that are important for the promotion of biological diversity of Hong Kong in a sustainable manner, taking into account social and economic considerations, for the benefit and enjoyment of the community and future generations.

***Brief Description***

**15** The Branch's main responsibility under this programme is to formulate and oversee the implementation of policies relating to the promotion of biodiversity, protection of endangered species and wild animals, and conservation of country parks, marine parks, and wetland. It also promotes countryside conservation through the work of the Countryside Conservation Office.

***Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27***

**16** During 2026–27, the Branch will:

- oversee further studies and planning for the development of Sam Po Shue Wetland Conservation Park and Coastal Protection Park in the Northern Metropolis;
- oversee the management and operation of country and marine parks;
- oversee the enhancement of recreational and educational facilities of country parks;
- oversee the management strategy of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark;
- oversee the strategies for enhanced protection of endangered species and management of wild animals, including the review on relevant legislation and codes to enhance protection of marine animals;
- oversee the implementation of the Hong Kong Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan;
- promote eco-tour experience in Yan Chau Tong and co-ordinate minor improvement works in Lai Chi Wo and Sha Lo Tung as priority areas to enhance conservation and revitalisation of countryside;
- continue to provide secretariat support to the expert group for the proactive long term conservation of Sha Lo Tung to enrich its biodiversity;
- continue to provide secretariat support to the Advisory Committee on Countryside Conservation to consider funding applications under the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme; and
- continue to facilitate guesthouse and food business licence applications in countryside areas to enhance revitalisation of countryside and visitor experience.

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**Programme (6): Climate Change**

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	<b>2026–27 (Estimate)</b>
Financial provision (\$m)	120.2	154.9	132.2 (–14.7%)	<b>141.3</b> (+6.9%)
				(or –8.8% on 2025–26 Original)

***Aim***

**17** The aim is to co-ordinate the Government’s efforts in combatting climate change and to achieve carbon neutrality.

***Brief Description***

**18** The Branch’s main responsibility under this programme is to co-ordinate strategies and measures for combatting climate change and to achieve carbon neutrality.

**19** To align with the national “dual carbon” targets, Hong Kong Special Administration Region strives to achieve carbon neutrality before 2050 and reduce the total carbon emissions from the 2005 level by half before 2035. Under the vision of the Hong Kong’s Climate Action Plan 2050, the Government has been taking forward four major decarbonisation strategies, namely “net-zero electricity generation”, “energy saving and green buildings”, “green transport” and “waste reduction” to lead Hong Kong towards carbon neutrality. Hong Kong has been actively involved in international co-operation and exchanges on climate actions, including the events organised by the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group.

***Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27***

**20** During 2026–27, the Branch will:

- assist the Council for Carbon Neutrality and Sustainable Development in offering advice on decarbonisation strategies and promote participation by different sectors of the community;
- monitor the work of bureaux and departments in the implementation of the Hong Kong’s Climate Action Plan 2050 in support of Hong Kong’s transition to carbon neutrality;
- assist the Steering Committee on Climate Change and Carbon Neutrality in formulating the overall strategy and overseeing the co-ordination of various climate actions;
- assist the Inter-departmental Working Group on Using Hydrogen as Fuel in taking forward the measures set out in the Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong;
- introduce the subsidiary legislation under the Gas Safety Ordinance (Cap. 51) for regulating the manufacture, storage, transport, supply and use of hydrogen as fuel;
- work with the Mainland authorities to develop a sustainable aviation fuel value chain in the Greater Bay Area;
- enhance public awareness of climate change including publicity initiatives on Carbon Neutrality;
- promote regional and international collaboration on climate change and carbon neutrality, including collaboration with cities in the Greater Bay Area;
- oversee the work of the Hong Kong Observatory in providing weather services and scientific support for climate actions; and
- continue to provide support to bureaux and departments in enhancing carbon management by carrying out carbon audits on major government buildings; and progressively extend the conduct of carbon audit to typical government infrastructures to identify room for carbon reduction.

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**ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION**

	2024–25 (Actual) (\$m)	2025–26 (Original) (\$m)	2025–26 (Revised) (\$m)	2026–27 (Estimate) (\$m)
<b>Programme</b>				
(1) Director of Bureau’s Office .....	22.3	21.1	22.1	22.2
(2) Power.....	1,774.6	1,586.8	1,542.2	70.4
(3) Sustainable Development.....	40.3	42.6	40.3	42.4
(4) Environmental Protection.....	81.4	155.0	122.8	239.4
(5) Nature Conservation.....	134.0	119.6	121.2	114.3
(6) Climate Change.....	120.2	154.9	132.2	141.3
	2,172.8	2,080.0	1,980.8 (–4.8%)	630.0 (–68.2%)
				<b>(or –69.7% on 2025–26 Original)</b>

**Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision**

**Programme (1)**

Provision for 2026–27 is \$0.1 million (0.5%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the increased provision for operating expenses.

**Programme (2)**

Provision for 2026–27 is \$1,471.8 million (95.4%) lower than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is due to the decreased cash flow requirement for meeting the unused relief balances under the Electricity Charges Relief Scheme for which the validity end date was extended to 31 December 2026.

**Programme (3)**

Provision for 2026–27 is \$2.1 million (5.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to filling of vacancies and staff changes. There will be a net decrease of one post in 2026–27.

**Programme (4)**

Provision for 2026–27 is \$116.6 million (95.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for the New Energy Transport Fund and Fast Charger Incentive Scheme, partly offset by the decreased provision for personal emoluments. There will be a net decrease of two posts in 2026–27.

**Programme (5)**

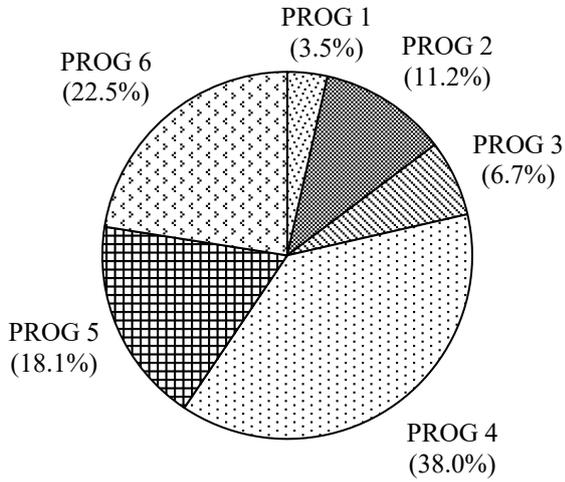
Provision for 2026–27 is \$6.9 million (5.7%) lower than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the decreased provision for operating expenses. There will be a net decrease of one post in 2026–27.

**Programme (6)**

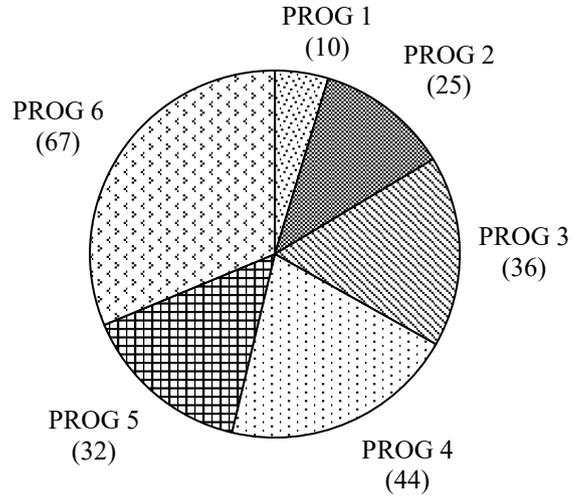
Provision for 2026–27 is \$9.1 million (6.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the increased cash flow requirement for the Sustainable Development Fund and Green Tech Fund. There will be a net decrease of one post in 2026–27.

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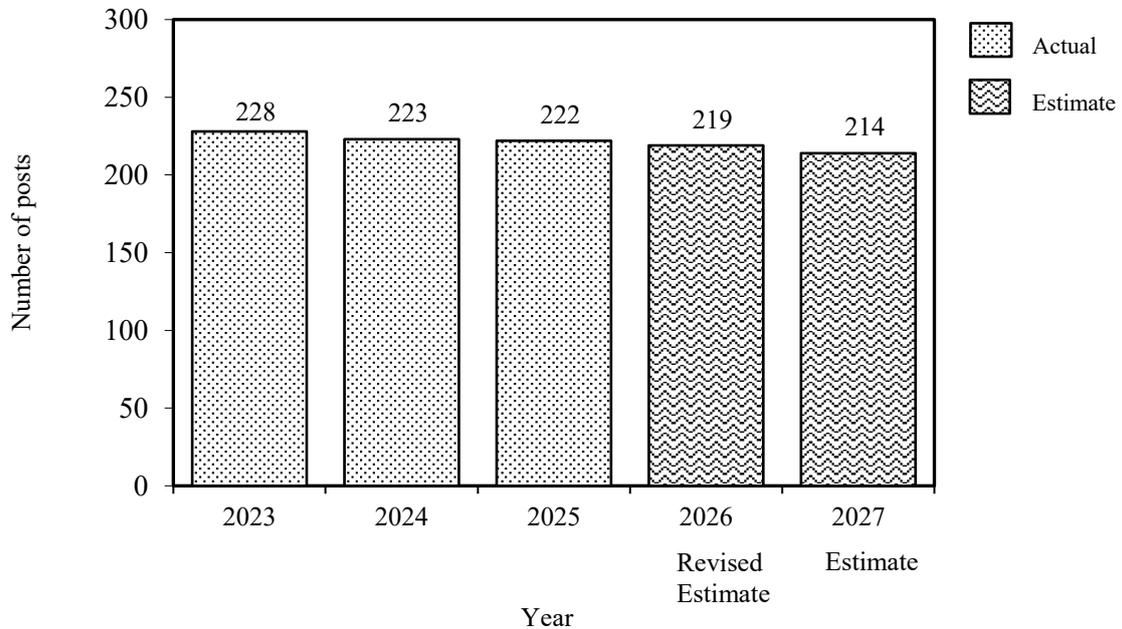
*Allocation of provision  
to programmes  
(2026-27)*



*Staff by programme  
(as at 31 March 2027)*



*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	<b>Estimate 2026–27</b>	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	<b>\$'000</b>	
<b>Operating Account</b>					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses .....	328,261	344,354	338,224	<b>334,314</b>
	Total, Recurrent.....	328,261	344,354	338,224	<b>334,314</b>
Non-Recurrent					
700	General non-recurrent .....	1,844,515	1,735,600	1,642,553	<b>295,643</b>
	Total, Non-Recurrent.....	1,844,515	1,735,600	1,642,553	<b>295,643</b>
	Total, Operating Account .....	2,172,776	2,079,954	1,980,777	<b>629,957</b>
	Total Expenditure .....	2,172,776	2,079,954	1,980,777	<b>629,957</b>

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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 Environment and Ecology Bureau (Environment Branch) is \$629,957,000. This represents a decrease of \$1,350,820,000 against the revised estimate for 2025–26 and \$1,542,819,000 against the actual expenditure in 2024–25.

*Operating Account*

Recurrent

**2** Provision of \$334,314,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Environment and Ecology Bureau (Environment Branch).

**3** The establishment as at 31 March 2026 will be 219 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of five 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 \$163,439,000.

**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.....	187,840	206,483	201,483	<b>206,353</b>
- Allowances.....	4,797	7,299	7,799	<b>5,576</b>
- Job-related allowances .....	1	72	72	<b>72</b>
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	425	577	564	<b>170</b>
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	18,159	21,948	21,455	<b>24,492</b>
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses .....	117,039	107,975	106,851	<b>97,651</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	328,261	344,354	338,224	<b>334,314</b>

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**Commitments**

Sub-head (Code)	Item (Code)	Ambit	Approved commitment	Accumulated expenditure to 31.3.2025	Revised estimated expenditure for 2025–26	Balance
			\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b><i>Operating Account</i></b>						
700		<i>General non-recurrent</i>				
	052	Sustainable Development Fund.....	100,000	73,940	1,230	24,830
	803	Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme¶.....	500,000¶	210,261	50,320	239,419
	804	Electricity Charges Relief Scheme (2024–2025)‡.....	3,544,000‡	2,016,979	1,500,000	27,021
	819	Green Tech Fund.....	400,000	81,176	34,000	284,824
	840	New Energy Transport Fund.....	1,100,000	142,185	48,253	909,562
	910	Fast Charger Incentive Scheme.....	300,000	—	8,750	291,250
		Total .....	<u>5,944,000</u>	<u>2,524,541</u>	<u>1,642,553</u>	<u>1,776,906</u>

¶ This item was previously known as “Countryside Conservation Office”.  
‡ As announced by the Government on 30 December 2025, the validity end date of the unused relief balances under the Electricity Charges Relief Scheme was extended by one year to 31 December 2026.