

Head 151 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: SECURITY BUREAU

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

Estimate 2026–27 **\$893.6m**

Establishment ceiling 2026–27 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 226 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2026 reducing by six posts to 220 posts as at 31 March 2027..... **\$156.2m**

In addition, there will be an estimated 18 directorate posts as at 31 March 2026 and 31 March 2027.

Commitment balance..... **\$2,000.0m**

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

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	16.8	17.0	17.0 (—)	17.1 (+0.6%)
				(or +0.6% on 2025–26 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

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	1,086.8	509.4	511.1 (+0.3%)	545.9 (+6.8%)
				(or +7.2% on 2025–26 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 2025–26, the Bureau:

- continued to oversee the maintenance of law and order and public safety in Hong Kong;
- enacted the Protection of Critical Infrastructures (Computer Systems) Ordinance (Cap. 653) and established the Office of the Commissioner of Critical Infrastructure (Computer-system Security);
- enacted the Firearms and Ammunition (Amendment) Ordinance 2025 (Cap. 238) to implement the United Nations Firearms Protocol in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;
- continued to 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);
- carried out the legislative exercise for phase one of the Registered Fire Engineer Scheme;
- continued to 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
- continued to 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, including the listing of all etomidate analogues as dangerous drugs under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134) in July 2025.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

8 During 2026–27, the Bureau will:

- oversee the implementation of a series of measures to enhance fire safety and take forward a legislative exercise for the amendment of fire services-related legislation to enhance the Fire Services Department's regulatory, enforcement and investigative functions, as well as introduce statutory duties for relevant stakeholders, thereby improving fire safety;
- continue to support the implementation of the three-tier prevention framework, and oversee counter-terrorism policy and the operation of the Inter-departmental Counter-terrorism Unit;
- continue to oversee the opening of the Sha Tau Kok Frontier Closed Area (except Chung Ying Street) for promoting cultural and eco-tourism whilst ensuring adequate security controls;
- take forward the legislative exercise 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 for the amendment of Frontier Closed Area Order (Cap. 245A) and Frontier Closed Area (Permission to Enter) Notice (Cap. 245H) to facilitate the opening up of Mai Po and Lin Ma Hang;
- continue to improve correctional services and facilities, and oversee the provision of rehabilitation services for persons in custody;
- continue to implement 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.

Programme (3): Immigration Control

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	2026–27 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	359.1	349.7	309.4 (–11.5%)	330.6 (+6.9%)
				(or –5.5% on 2025–26 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 residents and bona fide visitors to move in and out of Hong Kong.

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 2025–26, 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;
- continued to implement enhanced measures for the handling of non-refoulement claims, including implementing the updated removal policy to expedite removal of unsubstantiated claimants and strengthening management of immigration detainees, etc.;
- continued to oversee the provision of publicly-funded legal assistance (PFLA) to non-refoulement claimants;
- oversaw the system development and phased rollout of the Advance Passenger Information (API) System 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;
- continued to liaise with relevant Mainland authorities in promoting the “southbound and northbound” two-way flow of talents;
- 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 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;
- reviewed and further expanded the Immigration Facilitation Scheme for Visitors Participating in Short-term Activities in Designated Sectors;
- oversaw the Immigration Department’s provision of identity card-related services, including the enhancement of personal documentation kiosks;
- established an Interdepartmental Taskforce against Illegal Employment to enhance co-ordination in combating illegal employment; and
- oversaw the Immigration Department’s extension of e-Channel service.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

13 During 2026–27, the Bureau will:

- continue to oversee the operation of USM, the implementation of the enhanced measures for the handling of non-refoulement claims and the removal of unsubstantiated claimants;

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- sustain the provision of PFLA to non-refoulement claimants through the legal assistance scheme for non-refoulement claimants by the Duty Lawyer Service;
- continue to oversee the operation of the API system by the Immigration Department;
- 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;
- co-ordinate the 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, and oversee the Immigration Department's ongoing enhancement to visa application procedures;
- continue to liaise with relevant Mainland authorities in promoting the "southbound and northbound" two-way flow of talents;
- continue to oversee the implementation of the Immigration Facilitation Scheme for Visitors Participating in Short-term Activities in Designated Sectors, and keep its effectiveness under review;
- continue to oversee the Immigration Department's implementation of various measures to enhance the handling capacity and efficiency of control points; and
- continue to oversee the combat of illegal employment through the Interdepartmental Taskforce against Illegal Employment.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

	2024–25 (Actual) (\$m)	2025–26 (Original) (\$m)	2025–26 (Revised) (\$m)	2026–27 (Estimate) (\$m)
Programme				
(1) Director of Bureau’s Office	16.8	17.0	17.0	17.1
(2) Internal Security	1,086.8	509.4	511.1	545.9
(3) Immigration Control.....	359.1	349.7	309.4	330.6
	<hr/> 1,462.7	<hr/> 876.1	<hr/> 837.5 (–4.4%)	<hr/> 893.6 (+6.7%)
				(or +2.0% on 2025–26 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2026–27 is \$0.1 million (0.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the increased provision for departmental expenses.

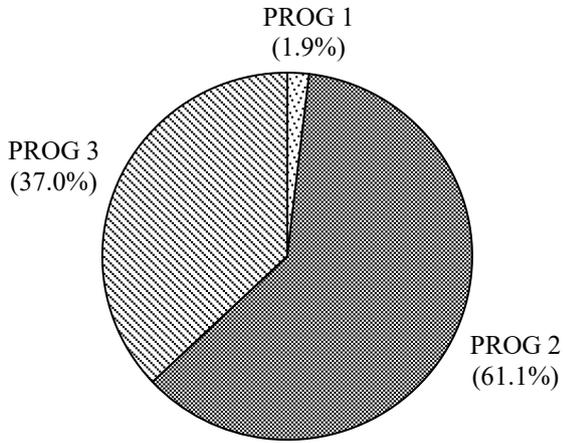
Programme (2)

Provision for 2026–27 is \$34.8 million (6.8%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the increased provisions for the full-year effect of vacancies filled in 2025–26 and departmental expenses, partly offset by the decreased provision for a net decrease of three posts in 2026–27.

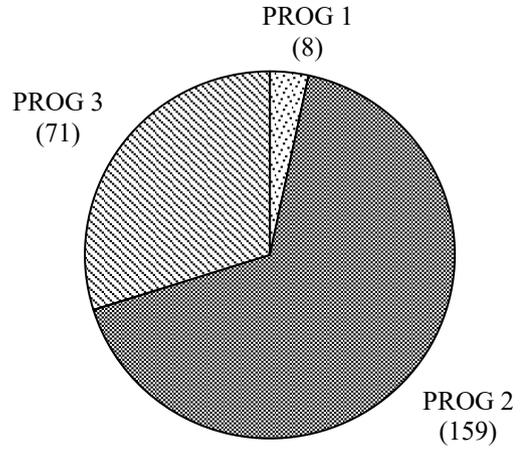
Programme (3)

Provision for 2026–27 is \$21.2 million (6.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the increased provisions for the full-year effect of vacancies filled in 2025–26, honoraria for members of committees and other departmental expenses, partly offset by the decreased provision for a net decrease of three posts in 2026–27.

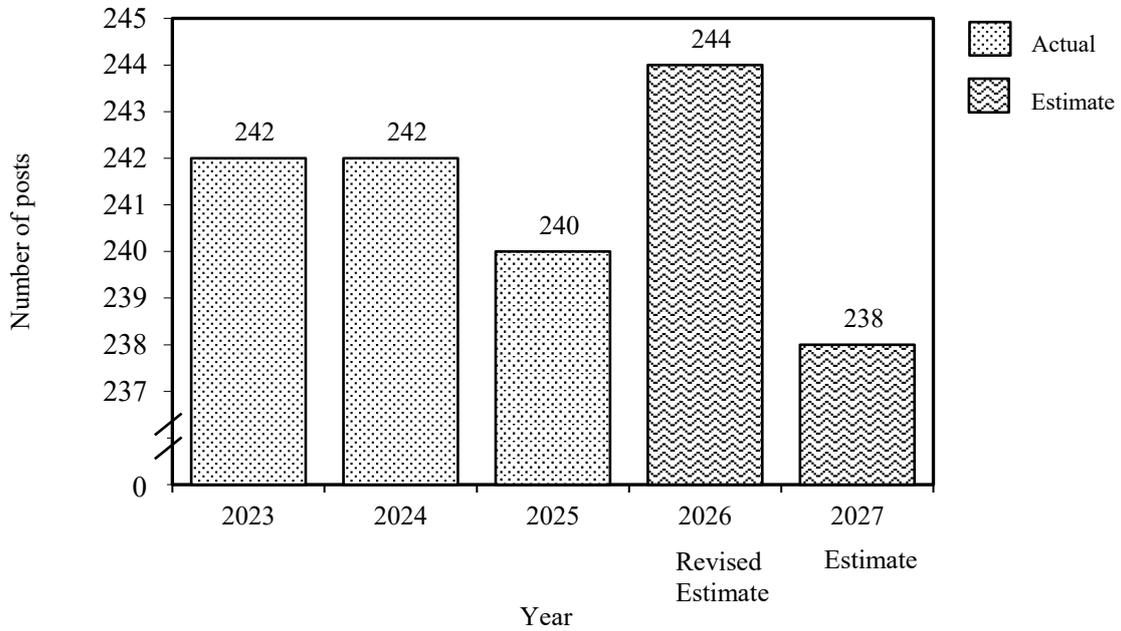
Allocation of provision to programmes (2026-27)



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	Estimate 2026–27	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	682,659	776,107	737,508	793,619
	Total, Recurrent.....	682,659	776,107	737,508	793,619
Non-Recurrent					
700	General non-recurrent	780,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
	Total, Non-Recurrent.....	780,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
	Total, Operating Account	1,462,659	876,107	837,508	893,619
	Total Expenditure	1,462,659	876,107	837,508	893,619

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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 Security Bureau is \$893,619,000. This represents an increase of \$56,111,000 over the revised estimate for 2025–26 and a decrease of \$569,040,000 against the actual expenditure in 2024–25.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$793,619,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Security Bureau.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2026 will be 244 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of six 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 \$156,172,000.

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.....	179,563	228,473	205,887	212,761
- Allowances.....	7,143	8,577	7,697	8,419
- Job-related allowances.....	13	25	42	37
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	438	291	390	236
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	17,259	22,463	19,938	21,939
Departmental Expenses				
- Honoraria for members of committees	82,238	92,331	90,211	97,455
- General departmental expenses	296,870	296,903	297,381	336,283
Other Charges				
- United Nations International Drug Control Programme and World Health Organization	217	217	217	217
Subventions				
- Legal assistance scheme for non- refoulement claimants by the Duty Lawyer Service	98,918	126,827#	115,745#	116,272#
	682,659	776,107	737,508	793,619

With the retirement of the “Pilot Scheme for Provision of Publicly-funded Legal Assistance for Non-refoulement Claimants” on 1 April 2025 and to sustain the provision of publicly-funded legal assistance to non-refoulement claimants, additional provision has been allocated towards the legal assistance scheme for non-refoulement claimants by the Duty Lawyer Service from 2025–26 onwards.

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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
<i>Operating Account</i>						
700		<i>General non-recurrent</i>				
	801	Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme.....	5,500,000	3,400,000	100,000	2,000,000
		Total	<u>5,500,000</u>	<u>3,400,000</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>2,000,000</u>