

Head 139 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT: FOOD AND HEALTH BUREAU (FOOD BRANCH)

Controlling officer: the Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Food) will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2014–15 **\$76.2m**

Establishment ceiling 2014–15 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 38 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2014 rising by one post to 39 posts as at 31 March 2015 **\$21.9m**

In addition, there will be an estimated eight directorate posts as at 31 March 2014 and as at 31 March 2015.

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

- | | |
|---|--|
| Programme (1) Director of Bureau's Office | This programme contributes to Policy Area 27: Intra-Governmental Services (Secretary for Food and Health). |
| Programme (2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety | This programme contributes to Policy Area 2: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety (Secretary for Food and Health). |
| Programme (3) Environmental Hygiene | This programme contributes to Policy Area 32: Environmental Hygiene (Secretary for Food and Health). |

Detail

Programme (1): Director of Bureau's Office

	2012–13 (Actual)	2013–14 (Original)	2013–14 (Revised)	2014–15 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	8.9	10.6	10.8 (+1.9%)	11.1 (+2.8%)
				(or +4.7% on 2013–14 Original)

Aim

- 2 The aim is to ensure the smooth operation of the Office of the Secretary for Food and Health.

Brief Description

3 The Office of the Secretary for Food and Health is responsible for providing support to the Secretary for Food and Health 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 Food and Health 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): Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety

	2012–13 (Actual)	2013–14 (Original)	2013–14 (Revised)	2014–15 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	29.7	47.9	34.4 (–28.2%)	44.6 (+29.7%)
				(or –6.9% on 2013–14 Original)

Aim

4 The aim is to formulate and oversee implementation of policies to ensure that food available for human consumption is safe, respond to food incidents effectively, prevent the introduction and spread of zoonotic diseases and diseases in animals and plants, facilitate the sustainable development of the agricultural and fisheries industries, and oversee efficient operation of government wholesale marketing facilities for fresh food produce.

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Brief Description

5 The Branch's main responsibility under this programme is to formulate and co-ordinate policies and programmes relating to the above activities. It made good progress in achieving the targets set for 2013.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014–15

6 During 2014–15, the Branch will:

- prepare legislation to extend the existing import control regime for meat and poultry to cover poultry eggs;
- prepare legislation to regulate formula products and foods for infants and young children;
- follow through the implementation of the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132CM) in August 2014;
- refine the details of the proposed regulatory framework governing veterinary drug residues in food with reference to the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation;
- continue to promote the safe and proper use of pesticides, including the smooth implementation of the Pesticides (Amendment) Ordinance;
- continue to collaborate with the Mainland authorities to apply information technology in enhancing the traceability of food;
- continue to implement a multi-pronged strategy to prevent avian influenza outbreak;
- continue to review and update the existing standards on food safety having regard to international practice and local needs;
- devise policy and measures to sustain and upgrade the development of local agriculture;
- set up the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund;
- follow through implementation of the trawl ban in Hong Kong waters and the Fisheries Protection (Amendment) Ordinance;
- issue new licences in a number of marine fish culture zones and launch a pilot scheme to test environmental impact;
- follow up on the proposals to better regulate pet trading;
- prepare legislative proposal to amend the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529); and
- follow up on the proposals to introduce a pre-market safety assessment scheme for genetically modified food.

Programme (3): Environmental Hygiene

	2012–13 (Actual)	2013–14 (Original)	2013–14 (Revised)	2014–15 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	19.8	22.0	19.6 (–10.9%)	20.5 (+4.6%)
				(or –6.8% on 2013–14 Original)

Aim

7 The aim is to provide quality environmental hygiene services in the territory, strengthen the management of public markets, minimise the risks and threats caused to public health by pest and other nuisances, increase the supply of columbarium and crematorium facilities and enhance the regulation of private columbaria, enhance the effectiveness of regulatory control over food premises, and promote public involvement in the upkeep of personal and environmental hygiene standards.

Brief Description

8 The Branch's main responsibility under this programme is to formulate and co-ordinate policies and programmes relating to the above activities. It made good progress in achieving the targets set for 2013.

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Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014–15

- 9 During 2014–15, the Branch will:
- examine the positioning and functions of public markets in present-day circumstances and develop proposals for improving the operating environment of public markets, taking into account the recommendations of the consultancy study commissioned in December 2013;
 - continue to implement measures to increase the supply of public columbarium and crematorium facilities and to promote the scattering of cremated human ashes at sea or in Gardens of Remembrance;
 - formulate legislation to enhance the regulation of private columbaria;
 - continue to implement the assistance scheme for improving the fire safety and operating environment of fixed-pitch hawker areas; and
 - follow up on the public consultation on the review of liquor licensing.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

	2012-13 (Actual) (\$m)	2013-14 (Original) (\$m)	2013-14 (Revised) (\$m)	2014-15 (Estimate) (\$m)
Programme				
(1) Director of Bureau's Office	8.9	10.6	10.8	11.1
(2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety.....	29.7	47.9	34.4	44.6
(3) Environmental Hygiene	19.8	22.0	19.6	20.5
	<hr/> 58.4	<hr/> 80.5	<hr/> 64.8 (-19.5%)	<hr/> 76.2 (+17.6%)
				(or -5.3% on 2013-14 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2014-15 is \$0.3 million (2.8%) higher than the revised estimate for 2013-14. This is mainly due to increased provision for payment of contract gratuities to non-civil service contract staff.

Programme (2)

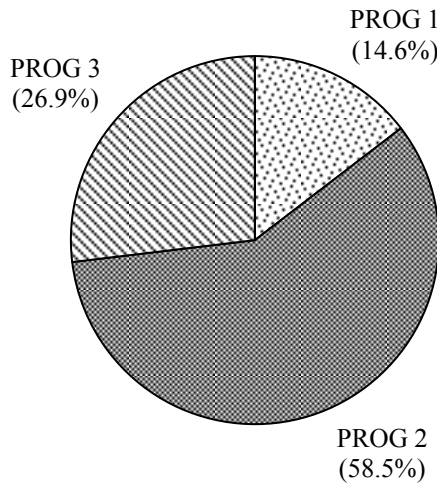
Provision for 2014-15 is \$10.2 million (29.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2013-14. This is mainly due to the lower-than-expected expenditure in 2013-14 for meeting contingencies arising from zoonotic diseases and food incidents. One post will be created in 2014-15 for strengthening secretarial support.

Programme (3)

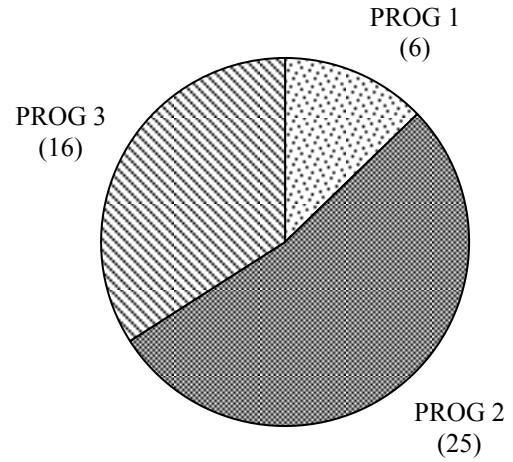
Provision for 2014-15 is \$0.9 million (4.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2013-14. This is mainly due to the increased provision for operating expenses.

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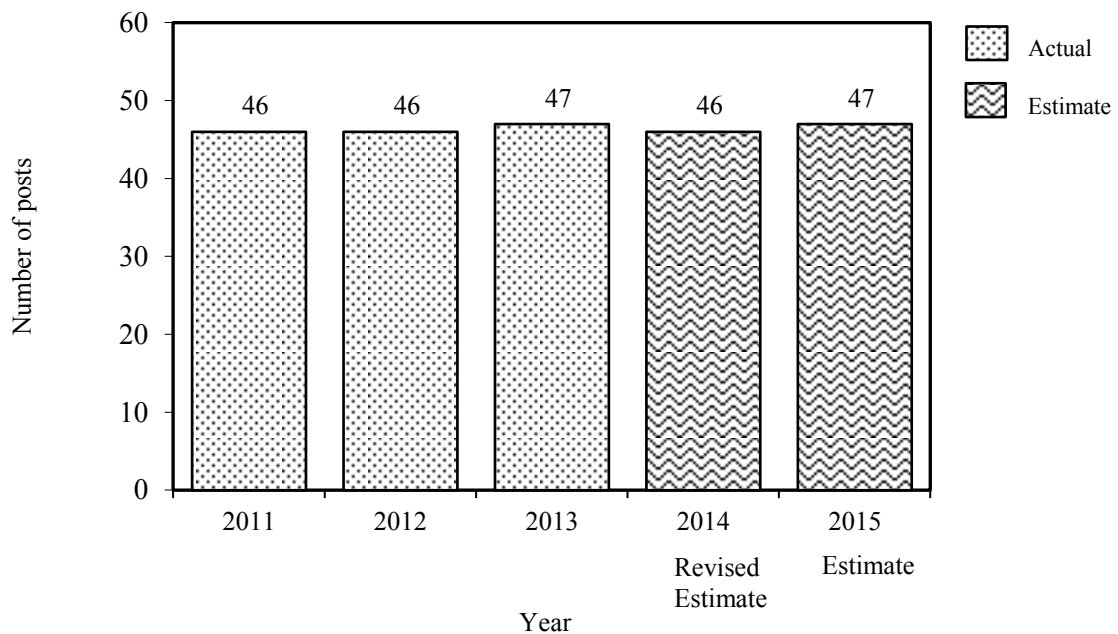
*Allocation of provision
to programmes
(2014-15)*



*Staff by programme
(as at 31 March 2015)*



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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2012-13	Approved estimate 2013-14	Revised estimate 2013-14	Estimate 2014-15	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	58,414	80,496	64,761	76,150
	Total, Recurrent.....	58,414	80,496	64,761	76,150
	Total, Operating Account	58,414	80,496	64,761	76,150
<hr/>					
	Total Expenditure	58,414	80,496	64,761	76,150
		<u>58,414</u>	<u>80,496</u>	<u>64,761</u>	<u>76,150</u>

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2014–15 for the salaries and expenses of the Food Branch is \$76,150,000. This represents an increase of \$11,389,000 over the revised estimate for 2013–14 and of \$17,736,000 over actual expenditure in 2012–13.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$76,150,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Food Branch. The increase of \$11,389,000 (17.6%) over the revised estimate for 2013–14 is mainly due to the lower-than-expected expenditure in 2013–14 for meeting contingencies arising from zoonotic diseases and food incidents and the increased provision for other operating expenses.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2014 will be 46 permanent posts. It is expected that there will be a net increase of one post in 2014–15. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2014–15, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$21,883,000.

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

	2012–13 (Actual) (\$'000)	2013–14 (Original) (\$'000)	2013–14 (Revised) (\$'000)	2014–15 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries.....	33,933	33,906	35,314	36,080
- Allowances.....	1,810	2,109	1,293	1,388
- Job-related allowances.....	—	2	2	2
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	49	52	69	53
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	786	691	854	941
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	21,836	43,736	27,229	37,686
	58,414	80,496	64,761	76,150