

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 2015–16 **\$84.3m**

Establishment ceiling 2015–16 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 39 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2015 rising by two posts to 41 posts as at 31 March 2016..... **\$23.9m**

In addition, there will be an estimated eight directorate posts as at 31 March 2015 and as at 31 March 2016.

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

	2013–14 (Actual)	2014–15 (Original)	2014–15 (Revised)	2015–16 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	10.7	11.1	11.4 (+2.7%)	11.1 (–2.6%)
				(or same as 2014–15 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

	2013–14 (Actual)	2014–15 (Original)	2014–15 (Revised)	2015–16 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	34.1	44.6	44.9 (+0.7%)	50.3 (+12.0%)
				(or +12.8% on 2014–15 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 2014.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2015–16

6 During 2015–16, the Branch will:

- follow up on the public consultation on regulation of nutrition claims and health claims for formula products and prepackaged food for infants and young children under the age of 36 months;
- oversee the expansion of the current Food Safety Laboratory in Pok Fu Lam to make it a permanent set-up for enhancing effective delivery of testing work to protect food safety;
- devise and implement a strategic plan to reduce intake of salt and sugars in food so as to promote a healthy diet;
- conduct public consultation on regulation of safety of edible oil and the recycling of waste cooking oil;
- conduct public consultation on regulation of cooked meat;
- implement the Imported Game, Meat and Poultry (Amendment) Regulation 2015 scheduled to be tabled at the Legislative Council to impose import control over poultry eggs;
- prepare for the implementation of the Food and Drugs (Composition and Labelling) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulation 2014;
- refine the details of the proposed regulatory framework governing veterinary drug residues in food with reference to the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap. 132 CM);
- continue to promote the safe and proper use of pesticides;
- continue to collaborate with the relevant Mainland authorities in applying radio frequency identification technology for enhancing the traceability of live cattle supplied to Hong Kong from Guangdong Province;
- continue to implement a multi-pronged strategy to prevent avian influenza outbreak, including undertaking a study on the future of the live poultry trade;
- continue to review and update the existing standards on food safety having regard to international practice and local needs;
- taking into account the views received from the public consultation exercise surrounding the new policy on agricultural development, devise measures to sustain and upgrade the development of local agriculture;
- monitor the progress of various measures introduced to sustain and upgrade the development of local fisheries, including the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund;
- follow through the legislative amendment exercise to tighten the framework for regulating pet trading;
- oversee implementation of the trap-neuter-return trial programme for stray dogs;
- follow through the legislative amendments to the Veterinary Surgeons Registration Ordinance (Cap. 529);
- follow up on the proposals to introduce a pre-market safety assessment scheme for genetically modified food; and
- prepare legislation for implementing the requirements of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in Hong Kong, including the Catch Documentation Scheme for toothfish and other relevant conservation measures.

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Programme (3): Environmental Hygiene

	2013–14 (Actual)	2014–15 (Original)	2014–15 (Revised)	2015–16 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	30.0	20.5	20.1 (–2.0%)	22.9 (+13.9%)
				(or +11.7% on 2014–15 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 2014.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2015–16

9 During 2015–16, the Branch will:

- formulate improvement proposals for a number of public markets, taking into account the recommendations of the consultancy study conducted in 2014;
- 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;
- follow through the legislative process of the Private Columbaria Bill with a view to enhancing 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 through the implementation of measures to improve the operation of the liquor licensing regime.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

	2013-14 (Actual) (\$m)	2014-15 (Original) (\$m)	2014-15 (Revised) (\$m)	2015-16 (Estimate) (\$m)
Programme				
(1) Director of Bureau's Office	10.7	11.1	11.4	11.1
(2) Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Safety.....	34.1	44.6	44.9	50.3
(3) Environmental Hygiene	30.0	20.5	20.1	22.9
	<hr/> 74.8	<hr/> 76.2	<hr/> 76.4 (+0.3%)	<hr/> 84.3 (+10.3%)
				(or +10.6% on 2014-15 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2015-16 is \$0.3 million (2.6%) lower than the revised estimate for 2014-15. This is mainly due to the reduced provision for payment of contract gratuities to non-civil service contract staff.

Programme (2)

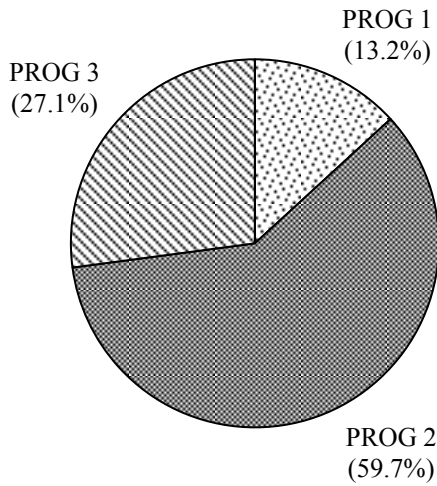
Provision for 2015-16 is \$5.4 million (12.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2014-15. This is mainly due to the increased provision for personal emoluments and operating expenses. There will be an increase of two posts in 2015-16 for strengthening executive support.

Programme (3)

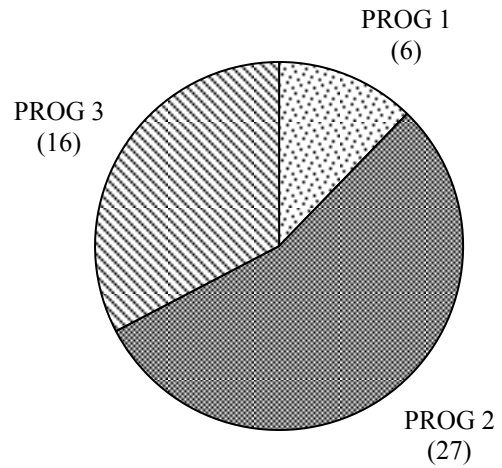
Provision for 2015-16 is \$2.8 million (13.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2014-15. This is mainly due to the increased provision for public columbarium development and operating expenses.

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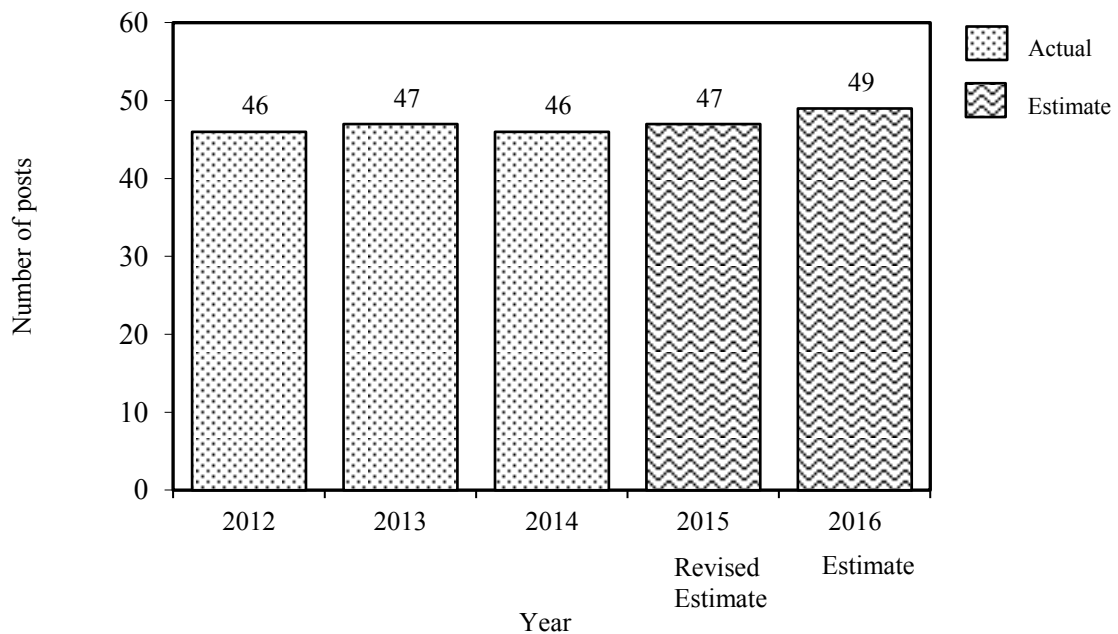
*Allocation of provision
to programmes
(2015-16)*



*Staff by programme
(as at 31 March 2016)*



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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2013–14	Approved estimate 2014–15	Revised estimate 2014–15	Estimate 2015–16	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	74,809	76,150	76,383	84,292
	Total, Recurrent	74,809	76,150	76,383	84,292
	Total, Operating Account	74,809	76,150	76,383	84,292
<hr/>					
	Total Expenditure	74,809	76,150	76,383	84,292
		<u>74,809</u>	<u>76,150</u>	<u>76,383</u>	<u>84,292</u>

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2015–16 for the salaries and expenses of the Food Branch is \$84,292,000. This represents an increase of \$7,909,000 over the revised estimate for 2014–15 and of \$9,483,000 over the actual expenditure in 2013–14.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$84,292,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Food Branch. The increase of \$7,909,000 (10.3%) over the revised estimate for 2014–15 is mainly due to the increased provision for personal emoluments, public columbarium development and other operating expenses.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2015 will be 47 permanent posts. It is expected that there will be a net increase of two posts in 2015–16. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2015–16, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$23,940,000.

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

	2013–14 (Actual) (\$'000)	2014–15 (Original) (\$'000)	2014–15 (Revised) (\$'000)	2015–16 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries.....	35,314	36,080	37,271	39,281
- Allowances.....	1,218	1,388	1,792	2,471
- Job-related allowances.....	—	2	2	2
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	68	53	58	57
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	851	941	1,081	1,390
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	37,358	37,686	36,179	41,091
	74,809	76,150	76,383	84,292